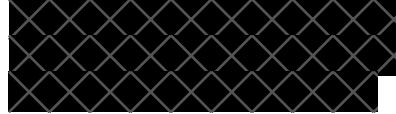





UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
STATION PLACE
100 F STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20549-2465

Office of FOIA Services

September 17, 2024



Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552
Request No. **24-04057-FOIA**

Dear Mr. 

This letter is in response to your request, dated September 5, 2024, and received in this office on September 6, 2024, for "communications between the above-named persons (SEC employees, SEC hired expert witness) and Payward Inc., Payward Ventures Inc., known as Kraken, regarding the SEC v. Middleton et al. investigation" dating from April 1, 2017, to August 31, 2019.

Based on the information you provided in your request, we conducted a thorough search of the SEC's various systems of records, but did not locate or identify any records responsive to your request. Therefore, we conclude that no responsive records exist, and we have closed your request.

However, if you still have reason to believe that the SEC maintains the records you are seeking, please submit a new request providing us with any new or additional information, which supports why you believe the SEC maintains the records you are seeking.

You have the right to appeal the adequacy of our search or finding of no responsive information to the SEC's General Counsel under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6), 17 CFR § 200.80(f)(1). The appeal must be received within ninety (90) calendar days of the date of this adverse decision. Your appeal must be in writing, clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal," and should identify the requested records. The appeal may include facts and authorities you consider appropriate.

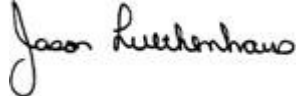
September 17, 2024

Page 2

You may file your appeal by completing the online Appeal form located at https://www.sec.gov/forms/request_appeal, or mail your appeal to the Office of FOIA Services of the Securities and Exchange Commission located at Station Place, 100 F Street NE, Mail Stop 2465, Washington, D.C. 20549, or deliver it to Room 1120 at that address.

If you have any questions, please contact me at luetkenhausj@sec.gov or (202) 551-8352. You may also contact me at foiapa@sec.gov or (202) 551-7900. You may also contact the SEC's FOIA Public Service Center at foiapa@sec.gov or (202) 551-7900. For more information about the FOIA Public Service Center and other options available to you please see the attached addendum.

Sincerely,



Jason Luetkenhaus
Lead FOIA Research Specialist

Enclosure

ADDENDUM

For further assistance you can contact a SEC FOIA Public Liaison by calling (202) 551-7900 or visiting <https://www.sec.gov/oso/help/foia-contact.html>.

SEC FOIA Public Liaisons are supervisory staff within the Office of FOIA Services. They can assist FOIA requesters with general questions or concerns about the SEC's FOIA process or about the processing of their specific request.

In addition, you may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA dispute resolution services it offers. OGIS can be reached at 1-877-684-6448 or via e-mail at ogis@nara.gov. Information concerning services offered by OGIS can be found at their website at [Archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov). Note that contacting the FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not stop the 90-day appeal clock and is not a substitute for filing an administrative appeal.