

**U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development**

HOUSING

**PUBLIC INQUIRY COMMUNICATIONS
SUBSYSTEM (PICS)**

Privacy Impact Assessment

NOVEMBER 2006

DOCUMENT ENDORSEMENT

I have carefully assessed the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for **Public Inquiry Communications Subsystem (PICS)**. This document has been completed in accordance with the requirement set forth by the [E-Government Act of 2002](#) and [OMB Memorandum 03-22](#) which requires that "Privacy Impact Assessments" (PIAs) be conducted for all new and/ or significantly altered IT Systems, and Information Collection Requests.

ENDORSEMENT SECTION

Please check the appropriate statement.

- The document is accepted.**
 The document is accepted pending the changes noted.
 The document is not accepted.

Based on our authority and judgment, the data captured in this document is current and accurate.

/s/ Silas Vaughn

SYSTEM MANAGER

Silas Vaughn, Chief, Disbursement and Customer Service, Office of Housing

11/6/06

Date

/s/ John Chin

PROGRAM AREA MANAGER

John Chin, Director, Single Family Insurance Operations Division, Office of Housing

11/3/06

Date

DEPARTMENTAL PRIVACY ADVOCATE

Office of the Chief Information Officer
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Date

/s/ Jeanette Smith

DEPARTMENTAL PRIVACY ACT OFFICER

Jeanette Smith, Office of the Chief Information Officer
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

11/29/06

Date

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PIA) FOR:
“PUBLIC INQUIRY COMMUNICATION SUBSYSTEM (PICS)”**

**(for IT Systems: [Insert OMB Unique Identifier]
and PCAS # 00251200)**

November 2, 2006

NOTE: See Section 2 for PIA answers, and Section 3 for Privacy Advocate’s determination.

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

Importance of Privacy Protection – Legislative Mandates:

HUD is responsible for ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of the information it collects on members of the public, beneficiaries of HUD programs, business partners, and its own employees. These people have a right to expect that HUD will collect, maintain, use, and disseminate identifiable personal information only as authorized by law and as necessary to carry out agency responsibilities.

The information HUD collects is protected by the following legislation and regulations:

- [Privacy Act of 1974, as amended](#) affords individuals the right to privacy in records that are maintained and used by Federal agencies. (See <http://www.usdoj.gov/foia/privstat.htm>; see also [HUD Handbook 1325.1 at www.hudclips.org](#));
- Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 is an amendment to the Privacy Act that specifies the conditions under which private information may (or may not) be shared among government agencies. (See <http://www.usdoj.gov/foia/privstat.htm>);
- [Freedom of Information Act of 1966, as amended](#) (http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/foia_updates/Vol_XVII_4/page2.htm) provides for the disclosure of information maintained by Federal agencies to the public, while allowing limited protections for privacy. See also [HUD’s Freedom of Information Act Handbook \(HUD Handbook 1327.1 at www.hudclips.org\)](#));
- [E-Government Act of 2002](#) requires Federal agencies to conduct Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) on its electronic systems. (See http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ347.107.pdf; see also the summary of the E-Government Act at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/pres_state2.htm);
- [Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002](#) (which superseded the Computer Security Act of 1987) provides a comprehensive framework for ensuring the effectiveness of information security controls over information resources that support Federal operations and assets, etc. See also the codified version of Information Security

regulations at [Title 44 U.S. Code chapter 35 subchapter II](http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.php) (<http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.php>); and

- [OMB Circular A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources, Appendix I](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a130/appendix_i.pdf) (http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a130/appendix_i.pdf) defines Federal Agency responsibilities for maintaining records about individuals.

Access to personally identifiable information will be restricted to those staff that has a need to access the data to carry out their duties; and they will be held accountable for ensuring privacy and confidentiality of the data.

What is the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Process?

The Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is a process that evaluates issues related to the privacy of personally identifiable information in electronic systems. See background on PIAs and the 7 questions that need to be answered, at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cio/privacy/pia/pia.cfm>. Personally identifiable information is defined as information that actually identifies an individual, e.g., name, address, social security number (SSN), or identifying number or code; or other personal/ sensitive information such as race, marital status, financial information, home telephone number, personal e-mail address, etc. Of particular concern is the combination of multiple identifying elements. For example, knowing name + SSN + birth date + financial information would pose more risk to privacy than just name + SSN alone.

The PIA:

- Identifies the type of personally identifiable information in the system (including any ability to combine multiple identifying elements on an individual);
- Identifies who has access to that information (whether full access or limited access rights); and
- Describes the administrative controls that ensure that only information that is necessary and relevant to HUD's mission is included.

Who Completes the PIA?

Both the program area System Owner and IT Project Leader work together to complete the PIA. The System Owner describes what personal data types are collected, how the data is used, and who has access to the personal data. The IT Project Leader describes whether technical implementation of the System Owner's requirements presents any risks to privacy, and what controls are in place to restrict access of personally identifiable information.

When is a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Required?

1. **New Systems:** Any new system that will contain personal information on members of the public requires a PIA, per OMB requirements (this covers both major and non-major systems).

2. Existing Systems: Where there are significant modifications involving personal information on members of the public, or where significant changes been made to the system that may create a new privacy risk, a PIA is required.

3. Information Collection Requests, per the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA): Agencies must obtain OMB approval for new information collections from ten or more members of the public. If the information collection is both a new collection and automated, then a PIA is required.

What are the Privacy Act Requirements?

Privacy Act. The [Privacy Act of 1974](http://www.usdoj.gov/foia/privstat.htm), as amended (<http://www.usdoj.gov/foia/privstat.htm>) requires that agencies publish a Federal Register Notice for public comment on any intended information collection. Privacy Act Systems of Records are created when information pertaining to an individual is collected and maintained by the Department, and is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some other identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to an individual. The [E-Government Act of 2002](#) requires PIAs for electronic systems as well as information collection requests that are automated. So, there is a relationship between the new PIA requirement (when automation is involved) and the long-standing Privacy Act System of Records Notices (for both paper-based and automated records that are of a private nature). For additional information, contact the Departmental Privacy Act Officer in the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Why is the PIA Summary Made Publicly Available?

The E-Government Act of 2002 requires that the analysis and determinations resulting from the PIA be made publicly available. The Privacy Advocate in HUD's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is responsible for publishing the PIA summary on HUD's web site. See: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cio/privacy/pia/pia.cfm>.

SECTION 2 – COMPLETING A PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Please submit answers to the Departmental Privacy Advocate in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). If any question does not apply, state Not Applicable (N/A) for that question, and briefly explain why it is not applicable.

Program Area: Office of Housing

Subject matter expert in the program area: Silas Vaughn, Chief Disbursement and Customer Service Branch, Housing, (202) 708-0522 extension 3545

Program Area Manager: John Chin, Director, Single Family Insurance Operations Division, Housing, (202) 708-2435 extension 2715

IT Project Leader: Donna Thomas, IT Project Leader, Office of Systems Integration and Efficiency, Office of the Chief Information Officer, (202) 708-1587 extension 7612; Paul Theisen, Director of Real Estate Insurance Division, Office of Systems Integration and Efficiency, Office of the Chief Information Officer (202) 708-1587 extension 7614

For IT Systems:

- **Name of system:** Public Inquiry Communication Subsystem (PICS)
- **PCAS #:** 00251200
- **OMB Unique Project Identifier #:**
- **System Code:** A80Q

For Information Collection Requests:

- **Name of Information Collection Request:**
- **OMB Control #:**

Question 1: Provide a brief description of what personal information is collected.

The Public Inquiry Communications Subsystem (A80Q) has been added to the existing FHA Integrated Insurance System (A80). It merged the functions of the Interim Correspondence Tracking System (CTS) into a new subsystem to provide a more global capability for producing HUD correspondence. It provides both on-line and batch processing. PIC provides a common application for tracking, researching and responding to inquiries received (letters, phone calls, FAXs, etc) from the mortgage industry, the general public, and Congress. It simplifies the former manual research procedures and techniques for HUD organizations. It will produce certain correspondence automatically and allow researchers to select other responses to public inquiries.

If this automated system (or Information Collection Request) involves personally identifiable information on members of the public, then mark any of the categories that apply below:

Personal Identifiers:

X	Name Business and Public
	Social Security Number (SSN) .
	Other identification number (specify type):
	Birth date
X	Home address Business and Public

	Home telephone
	Personal e-mail address
	Fingerprint/ other “biometric”
	Other (specify):
	None
X	Comment: No personal identifiable information is collected or stored in the system. The system tracks responses and inquiries for FHA Insurance responses received via, Congress, letters, phone calls, Faxes, ect.

Personal/ Sensitive Information:

	Race/ ethnicity
	Gender/ sex
	Marital status
	Spouse name
	# of children
	Income/ financial data (specify type of data, such as salary, Federal taxes paid, bank account number, etc.):
	Employment history:
	Education level
	Medical history/ information
	Disability
	Criminal record
	Other (specify):
X	None
	Comment:

Question 2: Type of electronic system or information collection.

Fill out Section A, B, or C as applicable.

- A. If a new electronic system (or one in development):** Is this a new electronic system (implemented after April 2003, the effective date of the E-Government Act of 2002)? **If yes, fill out subsections a, b, and c.**

	Yes	Yes	No
	a. Does the system require authentication?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Is the system browser-based?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c. Is the system external-facing (with external users that require authentication)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
X	No		
	Comment		

- A. If an existing electronic system:** Mark any of the following conditions for your existing system that OMB defines as a “trigger” for requiring a PIA (if not applicable, mark N/A):

N/A	Conversion: When paper-based records that contain personal information are converted to an electronic system
N/A	From Anonymous (Non-Identifiable) to “Non-Anonymous” (Personally Identifiable): When any systems application transforms an existing database or data collection so that previously anonymous data becomes personally identifiable
N/A	Significant System Management Changes: When new uses of an existing electronic system significantly change how personal information is managed in the system. (Example #1: when new “relational” databases could combine multiple identifying data elements to more easily identify an individual. Example #2: when a web portal extracts data elements from separate databases, and thereby creates a more open environment for exposure of personal data)
N/A	Merging Databases: When government databases are merged, centralized, matched, or otherwise significantly manipulated so that personal information becomes more accessible (with special concern for the ability to combine multiple identifying elements)
N/A	New Public Access: When <u>new</u> public access is given to members of the public or to business partners (even if the system is protected by password, digital certificate, or other user-authentication technology)
N/A	Commercial Sources: When agencies systematically incorporate into databases any personal data from commercial or public sources (ad hoc queries of such sources using existing technology does not trigger the need for a PIA)
N/A	New Inter-agency Uses: When agencies work together (such as the federal E-Gov initiatives), the lead agency should prepare the PIA
N/A	Business Process Re-engineering: When altering a business process results in significant new uses, disclosures, or additions of personal data
N/A	Alteration in Character of Data: When adding new personal data raises the risks to personal privacy (for example, adding financial information to an existing database that contains name and address)

C. If an Information Collection Request (ICR): Is this a new Request that will collect data that will be in an automated system? Agencies must obtain OMB approval for information collections from 10 or more members of the public. The E-Government Act of 2002 requires a PIA for ICRs only if the collection of information is a new request and the collected data will be in an automated system.

	Yes, this is a new ICR and the data will be automated
X	No, the ICR does not require a PIA because it is not <u>new</u> or <u>automated</u>)
	Comment:

Question 3: Why is the personally identifiable information being collected? How will it be used?

Mark any that apply:

Homeownership:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit checks (eligibility for loans)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loan applications and case-binder files (via lenders) – including borrower SSNs, salary, employment, race, and other information
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loan servicing (MIP collections/refunds and debt servicing for defaulted loans assigned to HUD)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loan default tracking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Issuing mortgage and loan insurance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comment:

Rental Housing Assistance:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility for rental assistance or other HUD program benefits
<input type="checkbox"/>	Characteristics on those receiving rental assistance (for example, race/ethnicity, # of children, age)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Property inspections
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comment:

Grants:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant application scoring and selection – if any personal information on the grantee is included
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disbursement of funds to grantees – if any personal information is included
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comment:

Fair Housing:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing discrimination complaints and resulting case files
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comment:

Internal operations:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Employee payroll or personnel records
<input type="checkbox"/>	Payment for employee travel expenses
<input type="checkbox"/>	Payment for services or products (to contractors) – if any personal information on the payee is included
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer security files – with personal information in the database, collected in order to grant user IDs

X	Other (specify):): Internal use for tracking inquiries received from the public and Congress regarding FHA-insured single family loans.
	Comment:

Other lines of business (specify uses):

Question 4: Will you share the information with others? (e.g., another agency for a programmatic purpose or outside the government)?

Mark any that apply:

	Federal agencies?
	State, local, or tribal governments?
	Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) or Section 8 property owners/agents?
	FHA-approved lenders?
	Credit bureaus?
	Local and national organizations?
	Non-profits?
	Faith-based organizations?
	Builders/ developers?
	Others? (specify)
X	Comment: HUD only for the purpose of tracking incoming phone calls, Congressional and public inquiries.

Question 5: Can individuals “opt-out” by declining to provide personal information or by consenting only to particular use (e.g., allowing their financial information to be used for basic rent eligibility determination, but for not for sharing with other government agencies)?

N/A

	Yes, they can “opt-out” by declining to provide private information or by consenting only to particular use
	No, they can’t “opt-out” – all personal information is required
	Comment:

If Yes, please explain the issues and circumstances of being able to opt-out (either for specific data elements or specific uses of the data):

Question 6: How will the privacy of the information be protected/ secured? What are the administrative and technological controls?

Mark any that apply and give details if requested:

X	System users must log-in with a password Users access PICS via the HUD LAN. There are specific screens for log in and an associated screen for violation of use. After getting on to the HUD LAN, the user then selects PICS (from the list of systems on the HUD web) and enters the HUD id (i.e., H number) and the password.
X	When an employee leaves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How soon is the user ID terminated? (1 day, 1 week, 1 month, unknown)? System access is removed within one business day of notification by the employee's supervisor, a HUD GONE request, or a request from management. • How do you know that the former employee no longer has access to your system? (explain your procedures or describe your plan to improve): The security administrator performs quarterly reviews of the system and system access to ensure that only those individuals who are authorized to have access to the system are actually on the system.
X	Are access rights selectively granted, depending on duties and need-to-know? If Yes, specify the approximate # of authorized users who have either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full access rights to all data in the system: 2 • Limited/restricted access rights to only selected data: 50 Users are only allowed to screens applicable to their respective functions.
	Are disks, tapes, and printouts that contain personal information locked in cabinets when not in use? (explain your procedures, or describe your plan to improve):
	If data from your system is shared with another system or data warehouse, who is responsible for protecting the privacy of data that came from your system but now resides in another? Explain the existing privacy protections, or your plans to improve:
	Other methods of protecting privacy (specify):
	Comment:

Question 7: If privacy information is involved, by what data elements can it be retrieved?

Mark any that apply:

X	Name:
	Social Security Number (SSN)
X	Identification number (specify type): FHA Case Number
	Birth date
	Race/ ethnicity
	Marital status
	Spouse name

X	Home address (Business and Public)
	Home telephone
	Personal e-mail address
	Other (specify):
	None
	Comment:

Other Comments (or details on any Question above):

SECTION 3: DETERMINATION BY HUD PRIVACY ADVOCATE

PIC is not a concern for Privacy. PIC does not collect or store any personal identifiable information from the public or business entity.