

Executive Office of the President
Office of Science and Technology Policy



2026 Chief Freedom of Information Act Officer
Annual Report

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The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is pleased to present its annual Chief FOIA Officer Report. The 2025 Fiscal Year demonstrated OSTP's continued commitment to its FOIA program despite its small size as an agency. In Fiscal Year 2025, we received 239 FOIA requests.

OSTP remains actively engaged in administering FOIA as required by Congress. OSTP provides the President and others within the Executive Branch with advice on the scientific, engineering, and technological aspects of the economy, national security, homeland security, health, foreign relations, and the environment. Our agency exists by creation of Congress, and Congress specifically situated the agency within the Executive Office of the President (EOP).

We operate with a small budget and currently have two full-time staff members devoted to FOIA, as well as one lawyer who spends a substantial amount of time supporting the program. Like other Agencies, we use a multi-track process to coordinate FOIA requests. Because we are within the EOP and lead inter-agency processes, many of our FOIA requests are complex, voluminous, and require inter-agency coordination.

OSTP regularly engages with requestors about their FOIA matters to gain a better understanding of what is being requested. Emails and phone calls help provide open communication and foster positive dialogues with the requesting community. OSTP is constantly looking to improve the FOIA process from start to finish. We ensure all staff are regularly attending training throughout the year, and we include a FOIA training module as part of every new employee's onboarding process at OSTP. This ensures that OSTP follows FOIA best practices and fosters an environment that provides efficient and accurate FOIA responses to requestors.

OSTP regularly works with FOIA officials throughout the Government. Our office also reviews technology offerings, procedures, and tracking systems in an effort to enhance the overall FOIA request process.

OSTP is fully committed to efficient, accurate, and timely administration of FOIA requests. We look forward to a continued and excellent working relationship with the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

Rachel Wallace

Deputy General Counsel and Chief Operations Officer

Section I: FOIA Leadership and Applying the Presumption of Openness

The guiding principle underlying the Attorney General's 2022 FOIA Guidelines is the presumption of openness. The Guidelines also highlight the importance of agency leadership in ensuring effective FOIA administration. Please answer the following questions about FOIA leadership at your agency and describe the steps your agency has taken to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied to all decisions involving the FOIA.

A. Leadership Support for FOIA

1. The FOIA requires each agency to designate a Chief FOIA Officer who is a senior official at least at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(j)(1) (2018). Is your agency's Chief FOIA Officer at or above this level?

Yes.

2. Please provide the name and title of your agency's Chief FOIA Officer.

Rachel Wallace, Chief Operations Officer and Deputy General Counsel.

3. What steps has your agency taken to incorporate FOIA into its core mission? For example, has your agency incorporated FOIA milestones into its strategic plan?

OSTP has been heavily engaged in promoting policies that encourage transparency and accuracy in research, data, and information. In particular, on May 23, 2025, the White House issued an Executive Order on Restoring Gold Standard Science (E.O. 14303), which, among other things, was intended to ensure that “agencies practice data transparency, acknowledge relevant scientific uncertainties, are transparent about the assumptions and likelihood of scenarios used, approach scientific findings objectively, and communicate scientific data accurately.” Pursuant to that E.O., on June 23, 2025, OSTP issued guidance to agencies on how to implement Gold Standard Science. It called on agencies to implement the nine core tenets of Gold Standard Science: reproducible; transparent; communicative of error and uncertainty; collaborative and interdisciplinary; skeptical of its findings and assumptions; structured for falsifiability of hypotheses; subject to unbiased peer review; accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and without conflicts of interest. Those principles have been integrated into OSTP’s approach to policy, as well as its FOIA practice.

B. Presumption of Openness

4. The Attorney General's 2022 FOIA Guidelines provides that “agencies should confirm in response letters to FOIA requesters that they have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying FOIA exemptions.” Does your agency provide such confirmation in its response letters?

Yes.

5. In some circumstances, agencies may respond to a requester that it can neither confirm nor deny the existence of requested records if acknowledging the existence of records would harm an

interested protected by a FOIA exemption. This is commonly referred to as a Glomar response. If your agency tracks Glomar responses, please provide:

- the number of times your agency issued a full or partial Glomar response (separate full and partial if possible);

Once.

- the number of times a Glomar response was issued by exemption (e.g., Exemption 7(C) – 20 times, Exemption 1 – 5 times).

Exemption 3—once; and Exemption 6—once.

6. Optional -- If there are any other initiatives undertaken by your agency to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied, please describe them here.

OSTP embraces the presumption of openness and provides documents on its website for easy dissemination and review. OSTP also adheres to the best technological practices to ensure that documents are released in a timely fashion and in easily accessible formats.

Section II: Ensuring Fair and Effective FOIA Administration

The Attorney General's 2022 FOIA Guidelines provide that “[e]nsuring fair and effective FOIA administration requires . . . proper training, and a full understanding of FOIA obligations by the entire agency workforce.” The Guidelines reinforce longstanding guidance to “work with FOIA requesters in a spirit of cooperation.” The Attorney General also “urge[s] agency Chief FOIA Officers to undertake comprehensive review of all aspects of their agency’s FOIA administration” as part of ensuring fair and effective FOIA administration.

A. FOIA Training

1. The FOIA directs agency Chief FOIA Officers to ensure that FOIA training is offered to agency personnel. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(j)(2)(F). Please describe the efforts your agency has undertaken to ensure proper FOIA training is made available and used by agency personnel.

OSTP continues to encourage its FOIA professionals to attend FOIA training sessions offered by the Department of Justice (hereinafter, “DOJ”), the Chief FOIA Officers Council Technology Committee and other FOIA training events. Additionally, the best practices from those sessions are incorporated into OSTP’s administration of its FOIA program.

2. Did your FOIA professionals or the personnel at your agency who have FOIA responsibilities attend substantive FOIA training during the reporting period such as that provided by the Department of Justice?

Yes.

3. If yes, please provide a brief description of the type of training attended or conducted and the topics covered.

OSTP welcomes the opportunity for its staff to regularly attend FOIA training throughout the year. Those sessions help to ensure that FOIA professionals stay up to date on the latest legal and technological developments. For example, changes in the law or practices governing the Act as well as the most recent or best tools (predictive coding and the latest e-discovery review platforms) in the field help us to effectively and efficiently process FOIA requests.

OSTP FOIA professionals participated in training sessions held by the DOJ/ OIP. For example, staff members attended training on FOIA exemptions as well as those dealing with attorney fees, expedited processing, failure to reasonably describe the records sought etc.

4. Please provide an estimate of the percentage of your FOIA professionals and staff with FOIA responsibilities who attended substantive FOIA training during this reporting period.

100%

5. OIP has directed agencies to “take steps to ensure that all of their FOIA professionals attend substantive FOIA training at least once throughout the year.” If your response to the previous question is that less than 80% of your FOIA professionals attended training, please explain your agency’s plan to ensure that all FOIA professionals receive or attend substantive FOIA training during the next reporting year.

N/A.

6. Describe any efforts your agency has undertaken to inform non-FOIA professionals of their obligations under the FOIA. In particular, please describe how often and in what formats your agency provides FOIA training or briefings to non-FOIA staff; and if senior leaders at your agency received a briefing on your agency’s FOIA resources, obligations and expectations during the FOIA process?

As part of OSTP’s onboarding process, the Office of General Counsel provides all staff members (leadership, career OSTP professionals, detailees from other agencies, academic fellows, contractors, and interns) with comprehensive FOIA training. This training occurs through a virtual course taken by all new staff. Following this course, one of OSTP’s attorneys contacts each new staff member to answer any questions they may have about the FOIA as well as brief them on their obligations under the Act.

Additionally, OSTP FOIA professionals regularly update staff on FOIA requirements at all-hands and divisional meetings and work with staff to ensure that proper FOIA procedures are followed for records management and FOIA requests.

B. Outreach

7. As part of the standard request process, do your FOIA professionals proactively contact requesters concerning complex or voluminous requests in an effort to clarify or narrow the scope of the request so requesters can receive responses more quickly? Please describe any such outreach or dialogue and, if applicable, any specific examples.

OSTP's FOIA professionals regularly engage with the requesting community throughout the FOIA process to better understand their needs; resolve potential or outstanding issues; and ensure timely and efficient production of the requested records. Additionally, OSTP examines all incoming requests to determine if they are: permissible; overly broad; misdirected to OSTP; questions posed as a FOIA requests and other issues. Also, requestors are promptly contacted by email to seek clarification or schedule a conference call to discuss issues with the submissions. Furthermore, pre-review case assessments are performed for complex requests that generate voluminous search results to determine if the scope could be narrowed.

8. Outside of the standard request process or routine FOIA Liaison or FOIA Requester Service Center interactions, did your FOIA professionals engage in any outreach or dialogue, with the requester community or open government groups regarding your administration of the FOIA? For example, did you proactively contact frequent requesters, host FOIA-related conference calls with open government groups, or provide FOIA training to members of the public? Please describe any such outreach or dialogue and, if applicable, any specific examples of how this dialogue has led to improvements in your agency's FOIA administration.

OSTP staff members attend various training events to meet with fellow Government professionals and individuals from the requestor community. These engagements provide excellent opportunities for OSTP FOIA professionals to gain insight into the needs of the FOIA community. Additionally, OSTP provides vital information to prospective requestors who might not be well versed in the FOIA. We provide guidance on scope narrowing; the appropriate agency to contact in cases of mis-directed FOIA requests; information on permissible and impermissible FOIA requests; etc.

9. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 requires additional notification to requesters about the services provided by the agency's FOIA Public Liaison. Please provide an estimate of the number of times requesters sought assistance from your agency's FOIA Public Liaison during Fiscal Year 2025 (please provide a total number or an estimate of the number for the agency overall).

Once.

C. Other Initiatives

10. Has your agency evaluated the allocation of agency personnel resources needed to respond to current and anticipated FOIA demands? If so, please describe what changes your agency has or will implement.

Yes. OSTP has been working to acquire FOIA processing software at the agency. The software would help to consolidate tasks that are currently done through multiple programs into one platform. Thus, promoting efficiency by streamlining the steps involved in processing the ever-expanding requests.

11. How does your agency use data or processing metrics to ensure efficient management of your FOIA workload? For example, case management reports, staff processing statistics, etc. In addition, please specifically highlight any data analysis methods or technologies used.

In performing the above task, the agency uses its annual report, quarterly reports and raw data against the FOIA tracking tool/ log to ensure consistency in the reported information.

Additionally, OSTP uses a central tracking system to record FOIA requests. That system helps to track current and past FOIA requests. Furthermore, it facilitates the assignment of priority requests to FOIA personnel. For instance, the preceding system helps to identify the 10 oldest requests in our backlog. Thus, ensuring that they are assigned and closed during the current fiscal year.

12. Optional -- If there are any other initiatives undertaken by your agency to ensure fair and effective FOIA administration, please describe them here.

N/A.

Section III: Proactive Disclosures

The Attorney General's 2022 FOIA Guidelines emphasize that "proactive disclosure of information is . . . fundamental to the faithful application of the FOIA." The Guidelines direct agencies to post "records online quickly and systematically in advance of any public request" and reiterate that agencies should post records "in the most useful, searchable, and open formats possible."

1. Please describe what steps your agency takes to identify, track, and post (a)(2) proactive disclosures.

Important agency announcements, such as Executive Orders, Presidential Memoranda, or Directives, are posted to www.whitehouse.gov/news/. Additionally, OSTP posts copies of OSTP reports, news, and other material and content that may be of interest to the public at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/>.

2. Does your agency post logs of its FOIA requests?

No. However, the information is available through the FOIA request process.

- If so, what information is contained in the logs?

N/A.

- Are they posted in CSV format? If not, what format are they posted in?

N/A.

3. Provide examples of any material (with links) that your agency has proactively disclosed during the past reporting year, including records that have been requested and released three or more times in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(2)(D).

When OSTP receives multiple requests for the same information, the agency will post the responsive material and other pertinent records that may be of interest to the public on its website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/information-resources/>.

4. Please provide a link (or component links, if applicable) where your agency routinely posts its frequently requested records.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/information-resources/>.

5. Beyond posting new material, is your agency taking steps to make the posted information more useful to the public, especially to the community of individuals who regularly access your agency's website? If yes, please provide examples of such improvements, such as steps taken to post information in open and machine-readable formats. If not taking steps to make posted information more useful, please explain why.

Yes. OSTP routinely communicates with requestors regarding information that is available on our website as well as future postings. This enables the public to access the records without having to submit a FOIA request.

6. Does your proactive disclosure process or system involve any collaboration with agency staff outside the FOIA office, such as IT or data personnel? If so, describe this interaction. formats, to the extent feasible. If not posting in open formats, please explain why and note any challenges.

We routinely work with our communications team to proactively post frequently requested records or those that are likely to be requested by members of the public.

7. Optional -- Please describe the best practices used to improve proactive disclosures and any challenges your agency faces in this area.

Regular communication with requestors helps to identify opportunities to direct them to records that have already been posted on our website or regulations.gov, eliminating the need to submit requests for those records. Even when materials are not available on our website, we frequently search and locate requested materials online to provide those to requesters who may have trouble locating them. Additionally, we routinely work with our staff to release RFIs as well as the comments received in response to those RFIs on regulations.gov.

Section IV: Steps Taken to Greater Utilize Technology

A key component of FOIA administration is using technology to make information available to the public and to gain efficiency in FOIA processing. The Attorney General's 2022 FOIA Guidelines emphasize the importance of making FOIA websites easily navigable and complying with the FOIA.gov interoperability requirements. Please answer the following questions to describe how your agency is using technology to improve its FOIA administration and the public's access to information.

1. Has your agency reviewed its FOIA-related technological capabilities to identify resources needed to respond to current and anticipated FOIA demands?

Yes.

2. Please briefly describe any new types of technology your agency uses to support your FOIA program.

OSTP works with the Office of Administration (hereafter “OA”), another component within the Executive Office of the President (henceforth “EOP”) network, as well as with the E-Discovery team at the EOP. The E-Discovery team provides technical expertise in the collection of records. In addition to the collection of the potentially responsive records, the team also maintains the software that facilitates review of those records. This software greatly assists in the production phase of FOIA requests by ensuring that correct file types are provided so the responsive records can be easily disseminated. This team has provided OSTP with helpful tools that allow for a more efficient review of large-scale electronic documents. Those tools are helpful in identifying duplicate documents and extremely useful for mass coding such records as well as categorizing documents by custodian, time frame, or keywords to provide a more efficient review process. E-Discovery and EOP components meet regularly to examine tools and discuss solutions for the e-Discovery review process to ensure that best practices are adopted in the collection, review, and production phases.

3. Does your agency currently use any technology to automate record processing? For example, does your agency use machine learning, predictive coding, technology assisted review or similar tools to conduct searches or make redactions? If so, please describe and, if possible, estimate how much time and financial resources are saved since implementing the technology.

Yes. OSTP uses predictive coding software and technology assisted reviews in processing FOIA requests to ensure faster and accurate review of potentially responsive records.

4. OIP issued guidance in 2017 encouraging agencies to regularly review their FOIA websites to ensure that they contain essential resources and are informative and user-friendly. Has your agency reviewed its FOIA website(s) during the reporting period to ensure it addresses the elements noted in the guidance?

Yes.

5. Did all four of your agency's quarterly reports for Fiscal Year 2025 appear on FOIA.gov?

Yes.

6. If your agency did not successfully post all quarterly reports on FOIA.gov, please explain why and provide your agency's plan for ensuring that such reporting is successful in Fiscal Year 2026.

N/A.

7. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 requires all agencies to post the raw statistical data used to compile their Annual FOIA Reports. Please provide the link to this posting for your agency's Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report and, if available, for your agency's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/information-resources/>

8. In February 2019, DOJ and OMB issued joint Guidance establishing interoperability standards to receive requests from the National FOIA Portal on FOIA.gov. Are all components of your agency in compliance with the guidance?

Yes.

9. Optional -- Please describe the best practices used in greater utilizing technology and any challenges your agency faces in this area.

Section V: Steps Taken to Remove Barriers to Access, Improve Timeliness in Responding to Requests, and Reduce Backlogs

The Attorney General's 2022 FOIA Guidelines instruct agencies "to remove barriers to requesting and accessing government records and to reduce FOIA processing backlogs." Please answer the following questions to describe how your agency is removing barriers to access, improving timeliness in responding to requests, and reducing FOIA backlogs.

A. Remove Barriers to Access

1. Has your agency established alternative means of access to first-party requested records, outside of the typical FOIA or Privacy Act process?

No. First-party requested records are processed under the FOIA and Privacy Act.

2. If yes, please provide examples. If no, please indicate why not. Please also indicate if you do not know.

OSTP processes first-party requests under the FOIA and Privacy Act.

3. Please describe any other steps your agency has taken to remove barriers to accessing government information.

OSTP continuously researches and implements newer and more efficient means of processing FOIA requests in order to ease the process of obtaining information.

B. Timeliness

4. For Fiscal Year 2025, what was the average number of days your agency reported for adjudicating requests for expedited processing? Please see Section VIII.A. of your agency's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report.

7.75

5. If your agency's average number of days to adjudicate requests for expedited processing was above ten calendar days, according to Section VIII.A. of your agency's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report, please describe the steps your agency will take to ensure that requests for expedited processing are adjudicated within ten calendar days or less.

N/A.

6. Does your agency utilize a separate track for simple requests?

Yes.

7. If your agency uses a separate track for simple requests, according to Annual FOIA Report section VII.A, was the agency overall average number of days to process simple requests twenty working days or fewer in Fiscal Year 2025?

Yes. The average number of days is 7.21.

8. If not, did the simple track average processing time decrease compared to the previous Fiscal Year?

N/A.

9. Please provide the percentage of requests processed by your agency in Fiscal Year 2025 that were placed in your simple track. Please use the following calculation based on the data from your Annual FOIA Report: (processed simple requests from Section VII.C.1) divided by (requests processed from Section V.A.) x 100.

9.46%

10. If your agency does not track simple requests separately, was the average number of days to process all non-expedited requests twenty working days or fewer?

N/A.

C. Backlogs

Backlogged Requests

11. If your agency had a backlog of requests at the close of Fiscal Year 2025, according to Annual FOIA Report Section XII.D.2, did that backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2024?

No. It increased by 91 requests, due, in part, to the vast number of increasingly complex requests received over the last few years.

12. If not, according to Annual FOIA Report Section XII.D.1, did your agency process more requests during Fiscal Year 2025 than it did during Fiscal Year 2024?

No.

13. If your agency's request backlog increased during Fiscal Year 2025, please explain why and describe the causes that contributed to your agency not being able to reduce its backlog. When doing so, please also indicate if any of the following were contributing factors:

- A significant increase in the number of incoming requests
- A loss of staff
- An increase in the complexity of the requests received (if possible, please provide examples or briefly describe the types of complex requests contributing to your backlog increase)

- Litigation
- Any other reasons- please briefly describe or provide examples when possible

OSTP experienced an increase in the number of incoming requests for fiscal year 2025. A significant portion of those were complex requests seeking records from 20 or more employees. Additionally, some of those requests sought records covering 2 or more years. Also, many of them were overly broad and required working with the requestors to narrow and perfect them. Furthermore, there were requestors with 10 or more requests per month. The following additional factors also had a significant impact on the agency's ability to process incoming requests:

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FOIA CONSULTS:

The number of consults and referrals also increased during the fiscal year. Most of the consults were the subject of litigation. Because such requests are subject to court-determined deadlines, most of the time, the pertinent agencies sought expedited review, which meant diverting resources to those requests, where practicable.

CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENA:

In FY25, OSTP received a Congressional subpoena that resulted in voluminous records. Processing those records had an impact on the backlogged requests.

BOT-LIKE REQUESTS:

OSTP received a significant number of requests that appeared to have been generated by bots. Many of them listed multiple agencies and private organizations as recipients and contained citations to state and international statutes that are inapplicable to the FOIA. Those requests are a drain on the agency's limited resources given the valuable time spent on the authentication process.

14. If you had a request backlog, please report the percentage of requests that make up the backlog out of the total number of requests received by your agency in Fiscal Year 2025. Please use the following calculation based on data from your Annual FOIA Report: (backlogged requests from Section XII.A) divided by (requests received from Section V.A) x 100. This number can be greater than 100%. If your agency has no request backlog, please answer with "N/A."

120.08%

Backlogged Appeals

15. If your agency had a backlog of appeals at the close of Fiscal Year 2025, according to Section XII.E.2 of the Annual FOIA Report, did that backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2024?

No appeals backlog in FY25.

16. If not, according to section XII.E.1 of the Annual FOIA Report, did your agency process more appeals during Fiscal Year 2025 than it did during Fiscal Year 2024?

N/A.

17. If your agency's appeal backlog increased during Fiscal Year 2025, please explain why and describe the causes that contributed to your agency not being able to reduce its backlog. When doing so, please also indicate if any of the following were contributing factors:

N/A.

Any other reasons – please briefly describe or provide examples when possible

N/A.

18. If you had an appeal backlog, please report the percentage of appeals that make up the backlog out of the total number of appeals received by your agency in Fiscal Year 2024. Please use the following calculation based on data from your Annual FOIA Report: (backlogged appeals from Section XII.A) divided by (appeals received from Section VI.A) x 100. This number can be greater than 100%. If your agency did not receive any appeals in Fiscal Year 2024 and/or has no appeal backlog, please answer with "N/A."

N/A.

D. Backlog Reduction Plans

19. In the guidelines for Chief FOIA Officer Reports, any agency with a backlog of over 1000 requests in Fiscal Year 2024 were asked to provide a plan for achieving backlog reduction in the year ahead. Did your agency implement a backlog reduction plan last year? If so, describe your agency's efforts in implementing this plan and note if your agency was able to achieve backlog reduction in Fiscal Year 2025?

N/A.

20. If your agency had a backlog of more than 1,000 requests in Fiscal Year 2025, please explain your agency's plan to reduce this backlog during Fiscal Year 2026.

N/A.

E. Reducing the Age of Requests, Appeals, and Consultations

Ten Oldest Requests

21. In Fiscal Year 2025, did your agency close the ten oldest pending perfected requests that were reported in Section VII.E. of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report?

Yes.

22. If no, please provide the number of these requests your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section VII.E of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest requests to close, please indicate that.

N/A.

23. Beyond work on the ten oldest requests, please describe any steps your agency took to reduce the overall age of your pending requests.

At the beginning of Fiscal Year 2025, OSTP prioritized closure of the ten oldest requests as well as other backlogged requests and devised a plan to do so—more resources were allocated to those requests and the agency instituted periodic evaluations to ensure that it was on track to close them before the fiscal year ended. That plan was fully executed even though OSTP experienced an increase in the number of incoming requests as well as other challenges.

Ten Oldest Appeals

24. In Fiscal Year 2025, did your agency close the ten oldest appeals that were reported pending in Section VI.C.5 of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report?

OSTP did not have any appeals backlog from FY24.

25. If no, please provide the number of these appeals your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section VII.C.(5) of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest appeals to close, please indicate that.

N/A.

26. Beyond work on the ten oldest appeals, please describe any steps your agency took to reduce the overall age of your pending appeals.

N/A.

Ten Oldest Consultations

27. In Fiscal Year 2025, did your agency close the ten oldest consultations that were reported pending in Section XII.C. of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report?

OSTP did not have any pending consultations from FY24.

28. If no, please provide the number of these consultations your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section XII.C. of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest consultations to close, please indicate that.

N/A.

Additional Information Regarding Ten Oldest

29. If your agency did not close its ten oldest pending requests, appeals, or consultations, please explain why and provide a plan describing how your agency intends to close those “ten oldest” requests, appeals, and consultations during Fiscal Year 2025.

N/A.

F. Additional Information about FOIA Processing

30. Were any requests at your agency the subject of FOIA litigation during the reporting period? If so, please describe the impact on your agency's overall FOIA request processing and backlog. If possible, please indicate:

- The number and nature of requests subject to litigation
- Common causes leading to litigation
- Any other information to illustrate the impact of litigation on your overall FOIA administration

Yes. We had one FOIA lawsuit. The matter has now been resolved.

However, the FOIA litigation adversely impacted our overall administration of the FOIA program because the request had to be taken out of sequence, which resulted in the diversion of valuable resources from the backlogged and/or pending requests to the request in question.