

Office of the Director National Intelligence

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023

Section I: Basic Information Regarding Report

1. Provide name, title, address, and telephone number of person(s) to be contacted with questions about the Report.

Ms. Erin Morrison
Chief, Information Review & Release Group
Information Management Office
Office of the Director of National
Intelligence Washington, D.C. 20511
(703) 275-3500

2. Provide an electronic link for access to the Report on the agency Web site.

<https://www.dni.gov/index.php/download-odni-foia-reports>

3. Explain how to obtain a copy of the Report in paper form.

Submit a written request to mail address above. FOIA requests may also be submitted electronically to DNI-FOIA@dni.gov.

Section II: Making a FOIA Request

1. Provide names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all individual agency components that receive FOIA requests.

The mailing address in Section I, above, is the single, central office which receives all FOIA requests for the Director of National Intelligence. Any FOIA requests received by components of the ODNI are referred to the Information Review & Release Group.

2. Provide a brief description of why some requests are not granted and an overview of certain general categories of the agency's records to which the FOIA exemptions apply.

ODNI consistently protects, among other things, classified national security

information and intelligence sources and methods pursuant to FOIA exemptions 1 and 3.

3. Provide a functional electronic link to agency FOIA regulations, including the agency's fee schedule. (NOTE: Agency FOIA Regulations were formerly listed at Section XI of the human-readable version of the Report).

<https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/FOIA/foia%20regs.pdf>

Section III: Definitions of Terms and Acronyms Used in the Report

1. Basic terms, expressed in common terminology.
 - a. **Administrative Appeal** – a request to a federal agency asking that it review at a higher administrative level a FOIA determination made by the agency at the initial request level.
 - b. **Average Number** – the number obtained by dividing the sum of a group of numbers by the quantity of numbers in the group. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the average number is 8.
 - c. **Backlog** – the number of requests or administrative appeals that are pending at an agency at the end of the fiscal year that are beyond the statutory time period for a response.
 - d. **Component** – for agencies that process requests on a decentralized basis, a "component" is an entity, also sometimes referred to as an Office, Division, Bureau, Center, or Directorate, within the agency that processes FOIA requests. The FOIA now requires that agencies include in their Annual FOIA Report data for both the agency overall and for each principal component of the agency.
 - e. **Consultation** – the procedure whereby the agency responding to a FOIA request first forwards a record to another agency or component within the same agency for its review because that other agency has an interest in the document. Once the agency in receipt of the consultation finishes its review of the record, it responds back to the agency or component within the same agency that forwarded it. That agency, in turn, will then respond to the FOIA requester.
 - f. **Exemption 3 Statute** – a federal statute that exempts information from disclosure and which the agency relies on to withhold information under subsection (b)(3) of the FOIA.
 - g. **FOIA Request** – a FOIA request is generally a request to a federal agency for access to records concerning another person (i.e., a "third-party" request), or concerning an organization, or a particular topic of interest. FOIA requests also include requests made by requesters seeking records concerning themselves (i.e., "first-party" requests)

when those requesters are not subject to the Privacy Act, such as non-U.S. citizens. Moreover, because all first-party requesters should be afforded the benefit of both the access provisions of the FOIA as well as those of the Privacy Act, FOIA requests also include any first-party requests where an agency determines that it must search beyond its Privacy Act "systems of records" or where a Privacy Act exemption applies, and the agency looks to FOIA to afford the greatest possible access. All requests which require the agency to utilize the FOIA in responding to the requester are included in this Report. Additionally, a FOIA request includes records referred to the agency for processing and direct response to the requester. It does not, however, include records for which the agency has received a consultation from another agency. (Consultations are reported separately in Section XII of this Report.)

- h. **Full Grant** – an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.
- i. **Full Denial** – an agency decision not to release any records in response to a FOIA request because the records are exempt in their entirety under one or more of the FOIA exemptions, or because of a procedural reason, such as when no records could be located.
- j. **Median Number** – the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.
- k. **Multi-Track Processing** – a system in which simple requests requiring relatively minimal review are placed in one processing track and more voluminous and complex requests are placed in one or more other tracks. Requests granted expedited processing are placed in yet another track. Requests in each track are processed on a first in/first out basis.
 - i. **Expedited Processing** – an agency will process a FOIA request on an expedited basis when a requester satisfies the requirements for expedited processing as set forth in the statute and in agency regulations.
 - ii. **Simple Request** – a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in its fastest (non- expedited) track based on the low volume and/or simplicity of the records requested.
 - iii. **Complex Request** – a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in a slower track based on the high volume and/or complexity of the records requested.
- l. **Partial Grant/Partial Denial** – in response to a FOIA request, an agency decision to disclose portions of the records and to withhold other portions that are exempt under the FOIA, or to otherwise deny a portion of the request for a procedural reason.

- m. **Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal** – a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.
- n. **Perfect Request** – a request for records which reasonably describes such records and is made in accordance with published rules stating the time, place, fees (if any) and procedures to be followed.
- o. **Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal** – a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has taken final action in all respects.
- p. **Range in Number of Days** – the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.
- q. **Time Limits** – the time period in the statute for an agency to respond to a FOIA request (ordinarily twenty working days from receipt of a perfected FOIA request).

2. Include the following concise descriptions of the nine FOIA exemptions:

- a. **Exemption 1:** classified national defense and foreign relations information
- b. **Exemption 2:** information that is related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- c. **Exemption 3:** information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law
- d. **Exemption 4:** trade secrets and other confidential business information
- e. **Exemption 5:** inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges
- f. **Exemption 6:** information involving matters of personal privacy
- g. **Exemption 7:** records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent that the production of those records (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual
- h. **Exemption 8:** information relating to the supervision of financial institutions
- i. **Exemption 9:** geological information on wells

3. Agency Component Abbreviations

Component Abbreviation	Component Name
ODNI	Office of the Director of National Intelligence

IV. Exemption 3 Statutes

Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Agency / Component	Number of Times Relied upon by Agency / Component	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency Overall
50 U.S.C. § 3024(i)(1) (formerly at 50 U.S.C. § 403- 1(i)(1))	Intelligence sources and methods	CIA v. Sims, 471 U.S. 159, 167 (1985).	ODNI	143	143
50 U.S.C. § 3507 (formerly at 50 U.S.C. § 403g)	Intelligence sources and methods; certain information pertaining to Agency functions or employees, specifically: “the organization or functions of the Agency, or of the names, official titles, salaries, or numbers of personnel employed by the Agency”	N/A	ODNI	83	83

V.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED AND PENDING FOIA REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Requests Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
ODNI	570	386	269	687
AGENCY OVERALL	570	386	269	687

V.B.(1). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- ALL PROCESSED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Full Grants	Number of Partial Grants / Partial Denials	Number of Full Denials Based on Exemptions	Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions									TOTAL
				No Records	All Records Referred to Another Component or Agency	Request Withdrawn	Fee-Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper FOIA Request for Other Reason	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request	Other *Explain in Chart Below	
ODNI	16	120	37	71	2	7	0	0	0	4	1	11	269
AGENCY OVERALL	16	120	37	71	2	7	0	0	0	4	1	11	269

V.B.(2). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- "OTHER" REASONS FOR "FULL DENIALS BASED ON REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS"

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denials from Chart B(1)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
ODNI	Unable to Locate or Contact Requester	3	11
	Litigation	8	
AGENCY OVERALL			11

V.B.(3). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
ODNI	43	0	155	5	8	45	0	0	10	0	3	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	43	0	155	5	8	45	0	0	10	0	3	0	0	0

VI.A. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number of Appeals Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
ODNI	24	15	20	19
AGENCY OVERALL	24	15	20	19

VI.B. DISPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS -- ALL PROCESSED APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number Affirmed on Appeal	Number Partially Affirmed & Partially Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number Completely Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number of Appeals Closed for Other Reasons	TOTAL
ODNI	16	0	1	3	20
AGENCY OVERALL	16	0	1	3	20

VI.C.(1). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
ODNI	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

VI.C.(2). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS

Agency / Component	No Records	Records Referred at Initial Request Level	Request Withdrawn	Fee-Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper Request for Other Reasons	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request or Appeal	Request in Litigation	Appeal Based Solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing	Other *Explain in chart below
ODNI	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
AGENCY OVERALL	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0

VI.C.(3). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- "OTHER" REASONS

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denial on Appeal from Chart C(2)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
ODNI	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

VI.C.(4). RESPONSE TIME FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
ODNI	56	137.83	25	417
AGENCY OVERALL	56	137.83	25	417

VI.C.(5). TEN OLDEST PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Appeal	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Appeal
ODNI	Date of Appeal	2021-10-20	2021-10-14	2021-09-27	2021-05-10	2021-04-14	2021-02-08	2021-02-08	2021-01-27	2019-01-15	2014-10-15
	Number of Days Pending	482	486	498	594	612	658	658	666	1167	2216
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Appeal	2021-10-20	2021-10-14	2021-09-27	2021-05-10	2021-04-14	2021-02-08	2021-02-08	2021-01-27	2019-01-15	2014-10-15
	Number of Days Pending	482	496	498	594	612	658	658	666	1167	2216

VII.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR ALL PROCESSED PERFECTED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	SIMPLE				COMPLEX				EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
ODNI	11	23.56	0	1386	84	308.32	1	2202	53.5	53.5	47	60
AGENCY OVERALL	11	23.56	0	1386	84	308.32	1	2202	53.5	53.5	47	60

VII.B. PROCESSED REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR PERFECTED REQUESTS IN WHICH INFORMATION WAS GRANTED

Agency / Component	SIMPLE				COMPLEX				EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
ODNI	7	11.52	0	104	63	281.11	1	1934	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	7	11.52	0	104	63	281.11	1	1934	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

VII.D. PENDING REQUESTS -- ALL PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	SIMPLE			COMPLEX			EXPEDITED PROCESSING		
	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days
ODNI	140	260	560.41	539	720	824.47	8	433	604
AGENCY OVERALL	140	260	560.41	539	720	824.47	8	433	604

VII.E. PENDING REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Request	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request
ODNI	Date of Receipt	2014-06-16	2014-06-16	2014-06-16	2014-06-16	2014-06-10	2014-05-07	2014-05-07	2014-05-07	2014-04-08	2014-04-01
	Number of Days Pending	2300	2300	2300	2300	2304	2327	2327	2327	2348	2353
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Receipt	2014-06-16	2014-06-16	2014-06-16	2014-06-16	2014-06-10	2014-05-07	2014-05-07	2014-05-07	2014-04-08	2014-04-01
	Number of Days Pending	2300	2300	2300	2300	2304	2327	2327	2327	2348	2353

VIII.A. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate	Number Adjudicated Within Ten Calendar Days
ODNI	4	13	<1	8.08	10
AGENCY OVERALL	4	13	<1	8.08	10

VIII.B. Requests for Fee Waiver

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
ODNI	64	0	<1	<1
AGENCY OVERALL	64	0	<1	<1

IX. FOIA Personnel and Costs

Agency / Component	PERSONNEL			COSTS		
	Number of "Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Number of "Equivalent Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Total Number of "Full-Time FOIA Staff"	Processing Costs	Litigation-Related Costs	Total Costs
ODNI	13	3.50	16.50	2496415.00	283920.00	2780335.00
AGENCY OVERALL	13	3.50	16.50	2496415.00	283920.00	2780335.00

X. Fees Collected for Processing Requests

Agency / Component	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
ODNI	0.00	0.0000
AGENCY OVERALL	0.00	0.0000

XI.A. Number of Times Subsection (C) Used

Agency / Component	Number of Times Subsection Used
ODNI	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0

XI.B. Number of Subsection (A)(2) Postings

Agency / Component	Number of Records Posted by the FOIA Office	Number of Records Posted by Program Offices
ODNI	37	17
AGENCY OVERALL	37	17

XII.A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Administrative Appeals

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year
ODNI	658	19
AGENCY OVERALL	658	19

XII.B. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING CONSULTATIONS

Agency / Component	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were <u>Pending</u> at the Agency as of <u>Start</u> of the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations <u>Received</u> from Other Agencies During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were <u>Processed</u> by the Agency During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were <u>Pending</u> at the Agency as of <u>End</u> of the Fiscal Year
ODNI	17	97	92	22
AGENCY OVERALL	17	97	92	22

XII.C. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED FROM OTHER AGENCIES AND PENDING AT THE AGENCY

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Consultation	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Consultation
ODNI	Date	2023-03-10	2023-02-22	2023-01-24	2023-01-12	2023-01-10	2022-12-20	2022-12-15	2022-11-22	2022-07-01	2022-02-01
	Number of Days	142	154	174	181	195	195	198	213	310	415
AGENCY OVERALL	Date	2023-03-10	2023-02-22	2023-01-24	2023-01-12	2023-01-10	2022-12-20	2022-12-15	2022-11-22	2022-07-01	2022-02-01
	Number of Days	142	154	174	181	183	195	198	213	310	415

XII.D.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- REQUESTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

Agency / Component	NUMBER OF REQUESTS <u>RECEIVED</u>		NUMBER OF REQUESTS <u>PROCESSED</u>	
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
ODNI	499	386	429	269
AGENCY OVERALL	499	386	429	269

XII.D.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
ODNI	551	658
AGENCY OVERALL	551	658

XII.E.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- APPEALS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

Agency / Component	NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>RECEIVED</u>		NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>PROCESSED</u>	
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
ODNI	15	15	3	20
AGENCY OVERALL	15	15	3	20

XII.E.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
ODNI	22	19
AGENCY OVERALL	22	19