

Central Intelligence Agency Freedom of Information Act Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2024

I. Point of Contact for this report:

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The electronic link for access to the Report is:

<http://www.cia.gov/readingroom/foia-annual-report>

To obtain a copy of the Report in paper form write to the above address.

II. HOW TO MAKE A FOIA REQUEST

1. An individual may make a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act by sending a request to:

Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Alternatively, one may send a request online at https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/foia_request or via the National FOIA portal at <https://www.foia.gov>.

2. The CIA consistently protects, among other things, classified national security information, information relating to intelligence sources and methods, and organizational information from release under the FOIA.

III. ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS

CADRE – CIA Automated Declassification and Release Environment. A case management system, deployed in early 2008, used to process FOIA and PA cases.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.)

Full Grant – an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.

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.

Median Number – the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal – a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.

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.

Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal – a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has taken final action in all respects.

Range in Number of Days – the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.

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).

The nine FOIA exemptions are:

Exemption 1: classified national defense and foreign relations information

Exemption 2: information that is related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

Exemption 3: information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law

Exemption 4: trade secrets and other confidential business information

Exemption 5: inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges

Exemption 6: information involving matters of personal privacy

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

Exemption 8: information relating to the supervision of financial institutions

Exemption 9: geological information

3. Agency Component Abbreviations

Component Abbreviation	Component Name
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency

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. § 3507 (formerly at 50 U.S.C. § 403g)	Intelligence sources and methods; certain information pertaining to the organization or functions of the Agency, or the names, official titles, salaries, or numbers of personnel employed by the Agency	Assassination Archives & Rsch. Ctr. v. CIA, No. 18-5280, 2019 WL 691517 (D.C. Cir. Feb. 15, 2019) (per curiam); ACLU v. DOJ, 681 F.3d 61, 72-75 (2d Cir. 2012); Berman v. CIA, 501 F.3d 1136, 1137-38, 1140 (9th Cir. 2007); Makky v. Chertoff, 489 F. Supp. 2d 421, 442 (D.N.J. 2007), aff'd on other grounds, 541 F. 3d 205 (3d Cir. 2008).	CIA	843	843
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).	CIA	842	842

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
CIA	4010	4087	2603	5494
AGENCY OVERALL	4010	4087	2603	5494

After reviewing its database, CIA adjusted the number of requests pending as of the start of the Fiscal Year.

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	
CIA	136	79	767	440	11	14	1	543	478	0	88	46	2603
AGENCY OVERALL	136	79	767	440	11	14	1	543	478	0	88	43	2603

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
CIA	Aggregated requests with concurrence of requester	20	46
	Unable to Locate or Contact Requester	26	
AGENCY OVERALL		46	46

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
CIA	830	0	845	0	17	53	0	0	5	5	4	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	830	0	845	0	17	53	0	0	5	5	4	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
CIA	344	34	130	249
AGENCY OVERALL	344	34	130	249

After reviewing its database, CIA adjusted the number of appeals pending as of the start of the Fiscal Year.

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
CIA	106	3	20	1	130
AGENCY OVERALL	106	3	20	1	130

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
CIA	104	1	109	0	6	18	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	104	1	109	0	6	18	0	0	1	0	1	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
CIA	12	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	12	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	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
CIA		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
CIA	688.50	838.08	54	2766
AGENCY OVERALL	688.50	838.08	54	2766

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

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Appeal	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Appeal
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Appeal	1/9/14	11/7/13	10/22/13	10/22/13	10/22/13	7/19/13	4/10/13	11/19/12	1/6/12	4/16/07
	Number of Days Pending	2706	2747	2759	2759	2759	2824	2894	2991	3210	4396

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
CIA	10	11.38	0	124	108.50	234.46	2	3278	107	107	107	107
AGENCY OVERALL	10	11.38	0	124	108.50	234.46	2	3278	107	107	107	107

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
CIA	9.5	14.93	0	124	472.5	691.81	17	3278	107	107	107	107
AGENCY OVERALL	9.5	14.93	0	124	472.5	691.81	17	3278	107	107	107	107

VII.C. PROCESSED SIMPLE REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Component	<1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
CIA	357	37	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	400
AGENCY OVERALL	357	37	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	400

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
CIA	561	17	290.08	4927	460	662.71	6	981	799.83
AGENCY OVERALL	561	17	290.08	4927	460	662.71	6	981	799.83

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

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Request	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request
CIA	Date of Receipt	8/26/2011	5/11/2011	5/11/2011	5/11/2011	5/10/2011	5/9/2011	4/13/2011	11/3/2010	1/28/2009	1/28/2009
	Number of Days Pending	3299	3374	3374	3374	3375	3375	3394	3486	3846	3948
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Receipt	8/26/2011	5/11/2011	5/11/2011	5/11/2011	5/10/2011	5/9/2011	4/13/2011	11/3/2010	1/28/2009	1/28/2009
	Number of Days Pending	3299	3374	3374	3374	3375	3375	3394	3486	3846	3948

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
CIA	1	105	3	7.7	80
AGENCY OVERALL	1	105	3	7.7	80

VIII.B. Requests for Fee Waiver

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
CIA	0	1	<1	<1
AGENCY OVERALL	0	1	<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
CIA	35	15.73	50.73	\$4,699,177.32	\$1,835,221.25	\$6,534,398.57
AGENCY OVERALL	35	15.73	50.73	\$4,699,177.32	\$1,835,221.25	\$6,534,398.57

X. Fees Collected for Processing Requests

Agency / Component	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
CIA	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0

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

Agency / Component	Number of Times Subsection Used
CIA	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
CIA	447	63
AGENCY OVERALL	510	

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
CIA	4879	246
AGENCY OVERALL	4879	246

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
CIA	296	316	152	460
AGENCY OVERALL	296	316	152	460

After reviewing its database, CIA adjusted the number of consultations received from other agencies pending at the start of the Fiscal Year.

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
CIA	Date	8/17/2017	8/1/2017	7/13/2017	6/27/2017	6/15/2017	5/30/2017	3/2/2017	11/8/2016	12/22/2015	11/25/2015
	Number of Days	1800	1812	1825	1836	1844	1856	1918	1994	2216	2234
AGENCY OVERALL	Date	8/17/2017	8/1/2017	7/13/2017	6/27/2017	6/15/2017	5/30/2017	3/2/2017	11/8/2016	12/22/2015	11/25/2015
	Number of Days	1800	1812	1825	1836	1844	1856	1918	1994	2216	2234

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
CIA	2426	4087	1567	2603
AGENCY OVERALL	2426	4087	1567	2603

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
CIA	3844	4879
AGENCY OVERALL	3844	4879

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
CIA	67	34	109	130
AGENCY OVERALL	67	34	109	130

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
CIA	345	246
AGENCY OVERALL	345	246