

III. Acronyms, Definitions, and Exemption

1. Definitions of terms used in this Report:

- 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. **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.
- e. **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.
- f. **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.)
- g. **Full Grant** – an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.
- h. **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.

- i. **Median Number** – the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.
- j. **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.
- k. **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.
- l. **Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal** – a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.
- m. **Perfected 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.
- n. **Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal** – a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has taken final action in all respects.
- o. **Range in Number of Days** – the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.
- p. **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. 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
 - 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

3. Agency Component Abbreviations

Component Abbreviation	Component Name
A	Administrator
AC	Chief of Staff
AD	Deputy Administrator
AK	Civil Rights
B	Chief Financial Officer
C	Office of Human Resources Management
D	Office of Mission Assurance
E	Small Business Utilization
G	Board of Contract Appeals
GSA	U.S. General Services Administration
GSA-MAIN	Headquarters (Central Office)
H	Office of Administrative Services
H3A	FOIA Requester Service Center
I	Office of GSA IT
J	Inspector General
L	General Counsel
M	Government-wide Policy
O	Office of Customer Experience
P	Public Buildings Service
Q	Federal Acquisition Service
S	Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
T	Technology Transformation Service
V	Chief Acquisition Officer
Z	Office of Strategic Communication
Region	Region Name
Region 1	New England Region
Region 2	Northeast & Caribbean Region
Region 3	Mid-Atlantic Region
Region 4	Southeast Sunbelt Region
Region 5	Great Lakes Region
Region 6	Heartland Region
Region 7	Greater Southwest Region
Region 8	Rocky Mountain Region
Region 9	Pacific Rim Region
Region 10	Northwest/Arctic Region
Region 11 (NCR)	National Capital Region