



**Central Intelligence Agency
2016 Chief Freedom
of Information Act
Officer Report**

Fiscal Year 2015

Section I: Steps Taken to Apply the Presumption of Openness

The guiding principle underlying the President's FOIA Memorandum and the Attorney General's FOIA Guidelines is the presumption of openness.

Please answer the following questions in order to describe the steps your agency has taken to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied to all decisions involving the FOIA. You may also include any additional information that illustrates how your agency is working to apply the presumption of openness.

FOIA Training:

1. Did your agency conduct FOIA training during the reporting period for FOIA professionals?

- Yes.

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

- CIA public access professionals attended a day-long internal training course entitled Information Disclosure Laws, which provides a substantive understanding of how laws and executive orders apply to the CIA with regards to reviewing, declassifying, and releasing information to the public.

3. If no, please explain why your agency did not hold training during the reporting period, such as if training offered by other agencies was sufficient for your agency's training needs.

- Not applicable.

4. Did your FOIA professionals attend any FOIA training or conference during the reporting period such as that provided by the Department of Justice?

- In 2015, CIA public access professionals attended both occurrences of the IC FOIA Officers Information Day hosted by ODNI. This biannual conference provides opportunities for interagency discussions of issues impacting IC FOIA programs and equity recognition training.

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

- Eighty five percent.

6. 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.

- Not applicable.

Outreach:

7. Did your FOIA professionals engage in any outreach or dialogue with the requester community or open government groups regarding your administration of the FOIA?

- CIA officers attended the annual conference sponsored by the American Society of Access Professionals. This provides them with the opportunity to hear what transparency advocates have to say about FOIA administration at the federal level. Our professionals also follow a website maintained by open government groups and FOIA advocates to spot developments that affect CIA's public access programs.
- CIA FOIA professionals routinely engage with members of the public in order to clarify and properly scope requests. In one example, a requester sought all Agency contracts with universities from across the nation. Through a series of teleconferences, CIA FOIA professionals explained our search capabilities to the requester which facilitated the successful submission of the request.

8. If you did not conduct any outreach during the reporting period, please describe why?

- Our electronic reading room provides helpful tips on how to compose effective FOIA requests. Requesters seeking additional information not found on CIA.gov may use our FOIA hotline at (703) 613-1287, which is staffed during routine business hours when the US Government is open. In Fiscal Year 2016, we will also establish an email address which requesters may use to contact us directly.

Discretionary Releases:

9. Does your agency have a distinct process or system in place to review records for discretionary release?

- Yes, the CIA's Historical Review Program (HRP) conducts an annual review to evaluate potential collections for discretionary release. This process involves input from Agency historians and members of the academic community to identify topics of historical significance. The program office then researches and reviews the selected material. National security risks that may arise from declassification are carefully weighed against the benefits of disclosure. Based on this evaluation and the availability of resources, the Agency makes a determination on processing a collection for discretionary release. Public and professional interest in specific topics are also considered, as judged by a number of searches on the FOIA website,

the number of HRP booklets requested, and inquiries at HRP document release and outreach events.

10. During the reporting period, did your agency make any discretionary releases of information?

- Yes.

11. What exemption(s) would have covered the material released as a matter of discretion? For a discussion of the exemptions that allow for discretionary releases, please see OIP's guidance on implementing the President's and Attorney General's FOIA Memoranda.

- Each released document would have been covered by a unique configuration of exemptions. Overall, across all of the released collections, the exemptions include the operational files exemption, file series exemption for automatic review as well as FOIA exemption (b)(3). The relevant withholding statutes are Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(I) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended.

12. Provide a narrative description, as well as some specific examples, of the types of information that your agency released as a matter of discretion during the reporting year.

- One historically significant collection, along with a publication, was released under the CIA's Historical Review Program during the reporting period. This release of presidential briefing products as detailed in the following paragraph was based on specific criteria, including historical significance, public interest, and the input of Agency historians and the Historical Review Panel. The discretionary release in this reporting period consisted of 2,500 documents and some 23,000 pages of declassified material. This collection was provided to historians, scholars, and the public, through an active and highly visible outreach program designed to place the maximum amount of material into the public's hands. For greater public exposure, CIA has routinely held symposia featuring former Presidents of the United States and other high-profile speakers at presidential libraries and other venues. Copies of declassified documents were widely distributed through such release events at universities and presidential libraries, presentations at academic conferences, and educational collaboration that resulted in the documents being placed directly into university classrooms. HRP also has an extensive program that makes the documents available on CIA's public website and through the Government Printing Office's Catalogue of Government Publications, as well as at each depository library—more than 1,200.

The Historical Review Program topic for fiscal year 2015 focused on:

- **The President's Daily Brief (September 2015).** This collection of presidential briefing products, spanning the Kennedy and Johnson presidential administrations, is the first large-scale release of its kind. *The President's Intelligence Checklists* (PICLs) and *The President's Daily Briefs* (PDBs) in this collection include more than 2,500 documents. This was an unprecedented release because of the exclusiveness of the documents in the collection. These documents were, and still are "eyes only," all-source publications written specifically for the president; they summarize the day-to-day intelligence and analysis on current and future national security issues. In addition to the PDBs and PICLs, the collection includes *The President's Intelligence Review* and its replacement, *Highlights of the Week*, as well as ad hoc supplemental products from other intelligence organizations and annexes that feature topics of presidential interest. The initial tranche of 2,500 documents from this collection, consisting of over 23,000 pages and covering the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, was released on 16 September, 2015. A special event marking this release was held at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas. In attendance were D/CIA John Brennan and former Directors and Deputy Directors of the CIA as well as the Director of the University of Texas Clements Center. The CIA is planning to release the remainder of the documents in this unique collection in the summer of 2016.

13. If your agency was not able to make any discretionary releases of information, please explain why.

- Not applicable.

Other Initiatives:

14. Describe any efforts your agency has undertaken to inform non-FOIA professionals of their obligations under the FOIA?

- CIA attorneys and public access professionals have taken efforts to sensitize line components to the Agency's statutory requirements under the FOIA. Briefings were provided to front office executive assistants and record managers. An internal training course on Information Disclosure Laws was made available to the workforce.

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

- In addition to the discretionary releases highlighted above, CIA reviewed more than 6.95 million pages of historically-valuable CIA records in response to the automatic declassification provisions of Executive Order 13526. Of this material, nearly

1.3 million pages were declassified in full or in part. Included in these totals are 193,242 reviewed pages from presidential libraries (160,387 pages declassified) and 246,422 reviewed pages from the National Declassification Center (192,479 pages declassified).

Section II: Steps Taken to Ensure that Your Agency Has an Effective System in Place for Responding to Requests

The Attorney General's 2009 FOIA Guidelines emphasized that "[a]pplication of the proper disclosure standard is only one part of ensuring transparency. Open government requires not just a presumption of disclosure, but also an effective system for responding to FOIA requests." It is essential that agencies effectively manage their FOIA program.

Please answer the following questions to describe the steps your agency has taken to ensure that your management of your FOIA program is effective and efficient. You should also include any additional information that describes your agency's efforts in this area.

Processing Procedures:

1. For Fiscal Year 2015, 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 2014 Annual FOIA Report.

- CIA maintained an average of 8.83 calendar days to adjudicate requests for expedited processing in fiscal year 2015.

2. If your agency's average number of days to adjudicate requests for expedited processing was above ten calendar days, please describe the steps your agency will take to ensure that requests for expedited processing are adjudicated within ten calendar days or less.

- Not applicable.

3. If your agency has a decentralized FOIA process, has your agency taken steps to make the routing of misdirected requests within your agency more efficient? If so, please describe those steps.

- Not applicable, CIA's FOIA processing is centralized.

4. On July 2, 2015, OIP issued new guidance to agencies on the proper procedures to be used in the event an agency has a reason to inquire whether a requester is still interested in the processing of his or her request. Please confirm here that to the extent your agency may have had occasion to send a "still interested" inquiry, it has done so in accordance with the new guidelines for doing so, including affording requesters thirty working days to respond.

- The CIA did not send any “still interested” inquiries in Fiscal Year 2015 or prior to the submission of this report.

Requester Services:

5. Agency FOIA Requester Service Centers and FOIA Public Liaisons serve as the face and voice of an agency. In this capacity they provide a very important service for requesters, informing them about how the FOIA process works and providing specific details on the handling of their individual requests. The FOIA also calls on agency FOIA Requester Service Centers and FOIA Public Liaisons to assist requesters in resolving disputes. Please explain here any steps your agency has taken to strengthen these services to better inform requesters about their requests and to prevent or resolve FOIA disputes.

- While we did not strengthen these services in Fiscal Year 2015, the CIA FOIA Requester Service Center operates our FOIA hotline. This provides requesters with a direct connection to the CIA’s FOIA Public Liaison and public access professionals. Using this mechanism, our FOIA Public Liaison has interacted directly with requesters to explain and clarify our processes and capabilities. In Fiscal Year 2016, requesters will be able to contact our FOIA Requester Center via email.

Other Initiatives:

6. If there are any other steps your agency has undertaken to ensure that your FOIA system operates efficiently and effectively, such as conducting self-assessments to find greater efficiencies, improving search processes, eliminating redundancy, etc., please describe them here.

- The FOIA program office uses process improvement teams to assess the efficacy of CIA’s case management and document review practices. Internal business process reviews have identified redundancies in case/document processing that, after having been eliminated, produced a more streamlined, efficient workflow.

Section III: Steps Taken to Increase Proactive Disclosures

Both the President’s and Attorney General’s FOIA memoranda focused on the need for agencies to work proactively to post information online without waiting for individual requests to be received.

Please answer the following questions to describe the steps your agency has taken to increase the amount of material that is available on your agency websites. In addition to the questions below, you should also describe any additional steps taken by your agency to make and improve proactive disclosures of information.

Posting Material:

1. Describe your Agency's process or system for identifying "frequently requested" records required to be posted online under Subsection (a)(2) of the FOIA. For example, does your agency monitor its FOIA logs or is there some other system in place to identify these records for posting.

- It is CIA's intention to post online all records released under our FOIA program. We do give priority to items that, per our FOIA logs, are frequently requested.

2. Does your agency have a distinct process or system in place to identify other records for proactive disclosure? If so, please describe your agency's process or system.

- Yes, in monthly intervals, CIA's repository for declassified records is queried for newly available items that have been approved for release under the FOIA. Identified documents deemed to be internet-ready are posted to the electronic reading room at CIA.gov for wider public use. Such material is accessible via the website's query tool.

3. When making proactive disclosures of records, are your agency's FOIA professionals involved in coding the records for Section 508 compliance or otherwise preparing them for posting? If so, provide an estimate of how much time is involved for each of your FOIA professionals and your agency overall.

- CIA's FOIA professionals only conduct INFOSEC reviews to determine if documents are ready to be loaded. CIA Information Management Technical Officers (IMTOs) prepare the documents for posting to our web content platform. The IMTOs are aware and sensitive to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. The CIA has a mandate to be in compliance by 2017 and we are analyzing the methods by which that goal will be met.

4. Has your Agency encountered challenges that make it difficult to post records you otherwise would like to post?

- No.

5. If so, briefly explain those challenges.

- Not applicable.

6. Provide examples of material that your agency has proactively disclosed during the past reporting year, including links to the posted material.

- Upon the release through the FOIA of the 2005 *CIA Office of Inspector General Report (OIG) on CIA Accountability Regarding Findings and Conclusions of the Report of the Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001*, the CIA also discretionarily released

redacted versions of four other documents that relate to the 2005 OIG report and provide alternate views on the Agency's performance prior to 9/11.

- The CIA proactively released two redacted documents relating to the classified CIA computer network shared with the US Senate for purposes of its study of the former Detention and Interrogation program.
- All these items are available on <http://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom>

7. Did your agency use any means to publicize or highlight important proactive disclosures for public awareness? If yes, please describe those efforts.

- Yes, the CIA's Office of Public Affairs issued a press statement in conjunction with the release of two proactive disclosures to our web content platform. Our social media coordinator has also used the CIA Twitter account to publicize releases by our Historical Review Program. In addition to posting the latest news, statements, and career information from CIA, the Agency's social media updates feature artifacts and other information from the CIA Museum. CIA posts updates and information from the Agency's "World Factbook," a unique public resource and educational tool, as well as unclassified intelligence histories and other information.

Other Initiatives:

8. If there are any other steps your agency has taken to increase proactive disclosures, please describe them here.

- CIA posts documents released in response to the FOIA and 25-year automatic declassification program under Executive Order 13526 to the electronic reading room at CIA.gov. Discretionary releases associated with the Historical Review Program are also added to the CIA portal. Millions of pages of records processed by the 25-year automatic declassification program have been loaded onto CREST systems located at NARA as well as individual presidential libraries. CIA disseminates declassified records in this way to increase the number of records provided to the public at large.

Section IV: Steps Taken to Greater Utilize Technology

A key component of the President's FOIA Memorandum was the direction to "use modern technology to inform citizens about what is known and done by their Government." In addition to using the internet to make proactive disclosures, agencies should also be exploring ways to utilize technology in responding to requests.

Please answer the following questions to describe how your agency is utilizing technology to improve its FOIA administration and the public's access to information. You should also include any additional information that describes your agency's efforts in this area.

Making Material Posted Online More Usable:

1. Beyond posting new material, is your agency taking steps to make the posted information more useable to the public, especially to the community of individuals who regularly access your agency's website?

- Yes

2. If yes, please provide examples of such improvements.

- CIA IMTOs are currently focused on establishing a strong foundation for our website to ensure high availability. A senior level developer has been assigned to the FOIA team which provides us with the ability to complete more complex work in a shorter period of time. The site is now hosted on the amazon commercial cloud which provides high availability. Our website team has identified technical backlog items that need to be addressed to further increase the security and scalability of the FOIA site. These improvements will allow for the future hosting of larger collections of documents.

3. Have your Agency's FOIA professionals interacted with other agency staff (such as technology specialists or public affairs or communications professionals) in order to identify if there are any new ways to post agency information online?

- In addition to working with CIA IMTOs as outlined in the answer to question 2, above, the CIA FOIA team this past year interacted with the Office of Public Affairs and the manager of the CIA Twitter account to publicize the public release of information.

Use of Technology to Facilitate Processing of Requests:

4. Did your Agency conduct training for FOIA staff on any new processing tools during the reporting period, such as for a new case management system, or for search, redaction, or other processing tools?

- CIA public access professionals participated in a day-long refresher on the primary database used to administer FOIA requests. This is an annual mandate to ensure their case management skills remain sharp.

5. Beyond using technology to redact documents, is your agency taking steps to use more advanced technology to facilitate overall FOIA efficiency, such as improving record search capabilities, utilizing document sharing platforms for consultations and referrals, or

employing software that can sort and duplicate documents? If yes, describe the technological improvements being made.

- Technological improvements, such as increased search capabilities and machine learning to assist in document review and redaction, are currently being investigated and assessed as part of our technology advancement discussions.

6. Are there additional tools that could be utilized by your agency to create further efficiencies?

- Incorporating machine learning into what is today a chiefly human-resourced effort could increase the Agency's efficiency in the processing of public access requests.

Other Initiatives:

7. Did your agency successfully post all four quarterly reports for Fiscal Year 2015?

- Yes.

8. If your agency did not successfully post all quarterly reports, with information appearing on FOIA.gov, please explain why and provide your agency's plan for ensuring that such reporting is successful in Fiscal Year 2016.

- Not applicable.

9. Do your agency's FOIA professionals use e-mail or other electronic means to communicate with requesters whenever feasible? See OIP Guidance, "The Importance of Good Communication with FOIA Requesters 2.0: Improving Both the Means and the Content of Requester Communications." (Nov. 22, 2013) If yes, what are the different types of electronic means are utilized by your agency to communicate with requesters?

- At this time CIA's FOIA professionals respond to requester inquiries only via telephone and formal correspondence. In fiscal year 2016, we will analyze the option of establishing a mechanism to communicate with requesters using email or other electronic means.

10. If your agency does not communicate electronically with requesters as a default, are there any limitations or restrictions for the use of such means? If yes, does your agency inform requesters about such limitations? See id.

- In seeking to establish this capability, we will ascertain if there are any security limitations or restrictions that may preclude such a means of communication.

Section V: Steps Taken to Improve Timeliness in Responding to Requests and Reducing Backlogs

The President's FOIA Memorandum and the Attorney General's 2009 FOIA Guidelines have emphasized the importance of improving timeliness in responding to requests. This section of your Chief FOIA Officer Report addresses both time limits and backlog reduction. Backlog reduction is measured both in terms of numbers of backlogged requests or appeals and by looking at whether agencies closed their ten oldest requests, appeals, and consultations.

For the figures required in this Section, please use the numbers contained in the specified sections of your agency's 2015 Annual FOIA Report and, when applicable, your agency's 2014 Annual FOIA Report.

Simple Track: Section VII.A of your agency's Annual FOIA Report, entitled "FOIA Requests – Response Time for All Processed Requests," includes figures that show your agency's average response times for processed requests. For agencies utilizing a multi-track system to process requests, there is a category for "simple" requests, which are those requests that are placed in the agency's fastest (non-expedited) track, based on the low volume and/or simplicity of the records requested.

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

- Yes.

2. If so, for your agency overall in Fiscal Year 2015, was the average number of days to process simple requests twenty working days or fewer?

- No, CIA processing of simple track requests averaged 39.85 days in fiscal year 2015.

3. Please provide the percentage of requests processed by your agency in Fiscal Year 2015 that were placed in your simple track.

- Simple track requests made up 44% of CIA's FOIA requests.

4. 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?

- Not applicable.

Backlogs:

5. If your agency had a backlog of requests at the close of Fiscal Year 2015, did that backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2014?

- CIA's FOIA backlog of still pending requests increased in fiscal year 2015.

6. If not, 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:

- ✓ An 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.
 - ✓ Any other reasons-please briefly describe or provide examples when possible.
- CIA received a slightly higher number of FOIA requests in fiscal year 2015. CIA public access professionals were also faced with a number of competing priorities, primarily non-FOIA review requests from components within the organization. High priority FOIA litigation reviews also drew resources away from reducing the backlog.

7. 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 2015.

- Thirty one percent.

Backlogged Appeals

8. If your agency had a backlog of appeals at the close of Fiscal Year 2015, did that backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2014?

- CIA reduced its FOIA backlog of still pending appeals requests in fiscal year 2015.

9. If not, 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:

- ✓ An 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.
- ✓ Any other reasons-please briefly describe or provide examples when possible.

- Not applicable.

10. 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 2014. If your agency did not receive any appeals in Fiscal Year 2014 and/or has no appeal backlog, please answer with "N/A."

- Fifty three percent.

Backlog Reduction Plans:

11. In the 2015 guidelines for Chief FOIA Officer Reports, any agency with a backlog of over 1,000 requests in Fiscal Year 2014 was 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 2015?

- CIA did not implement a backlog reduction plan last year.

12. If your agency had a backlog of more than 1,000 requests in Fiscal Year 2015, what is your agency's plan to reduce this backlog during Fiscal Year 2016?

- CIA public access professionals are committed to transparency and responsiveness. We are evaluating our FOIA business processes with an increased focus on customer service. However, limited and decreasing resources, in conjunction with increased demand and competing priorities, may impede on our ability to significantly reduce our FOIA backlog.

Status of Ten Oldest Requests, Appeals, and Consultations:

Ten Oldest Requests

13. In Fiscal Year 2015, did your agency close the ten oldest requests that were reported pending in your Fiscal Year 2014 Annual FOIA Report?

- No.

14. 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 2014 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest requests to close, please indicate that.

- CIA closed nine of its ten oldest requests in fiscal year 2015.

15. Of the requests your agency was able to close from your ten oldest, please indicate how many of these were closed because the request was withdrawn by the requester. If any were closed because the request was withdrawn, did you provide any interim responses prior to the withdrawal?

- None.

Ten Oldest Appeals

16. In Fiscal Year 2015, did your agency close the ten oldest appeals that were reported pending in your Fiscal Year 2014 Annual FOIA Report?

- No.

17. 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 2014 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest appeals to close, please indicate that.

- CIA closed six of its ten oldest appeals in fiscal year 2015.

Ten Oldest Consultations

18. In Fiscal Year 2015, did your agency close the ten oldest consultations that were reported pending in your Fiscal Year 2014 Annual FOIA Report?

- No.

19. 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 2014 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest consultations to close, please indicate that.

- CIA closed one of its ten oldest consultations in fiscal year 2014.

Additional Information on Ten Oldest Requests, Appeals, and Consultations & Plans:

20. Briefly explain any obstacles your agency faced in closing its ten oldest requests, appeals, and consultations from Fiscal Year 2014.

- Documents that incorporate highly classified material warrant more intense scrutiny and require more levels of review and internal collaboration. Four of the five holdouts from our ten oldest requests and appeals list require extensive consultations as the documents contain information that originated with other federal agencies.

21. If your agency was unable to close any of its ten oldest requests because you were waiting to hear back from other agencies on consultations you sent, please provide the date the request was initially received by your agency, the date when your agency sent the consultation, and the date when you last contacted the agency where the consultation was pending.

- 1) Request received: 8/11/2006; Consult sent: 2/9/2015; last contact: 9/24/2015
- 2) Request received: 11/14/2006; Consult sent: 2/23/2015; last contact: 9/18/2015
- 3) Request received: 11/16/2006; Consult sent: 2/24/2015; last contact: 9/24/2015
- 4) Request received: 10/23/2007; Consult sent: 3/31/2015; last contact: 9/25/2015

22. If your agency did not close its ten oldest pending requests, appeals, or consultations, please provide a plan describing how your agency intends to close those “ten oldest” requests, appeals, and consultations during Fiscal Year 2016.

- CIA’s FOIA program office compiles a list of our 10 oldest requests, appeals, and consultations early in the current fiscal year. We use this list to track progress and identify opportunities to advance each case toward closure. We also alert internal partners and external ones when circumstances warrant to assign a higher priority to these thirty requests.

Interim Responses:

23. Does your agency have a system in place to provide interim responses to requesters when appropriate? See OIP Guidance, “The Importance of Good Communication with FOIA Requesters.” (Mar. 1, 2010)

- CIA provides interim responses when appropriate.

24. If your agency had a backlog in Fiscal Year 2015, please provide an estimate of the number or percentage of cases in the backlog where a substantive, interim response was provided during the fiscal year, even though the request was not finally closed.

- While CIA does not have a mechanism in place to track this, we do provide interim responses on an ad hoc basis. A rough estimate of interim responses provided in fiscal year 2015 is 1% of cases still being processed.

Use of the FOIA’s Law Enforcement Exclusions:

Did your agency invoke a statutory exclusion, 5 U.S.C. § 552(c)(1), (2), (3), during Fiscal Year 2014?

- No.

Success Stories:

- CIA released 13,844 documents—either wholly or with excisions—under the FOIA and Privacy Act programs in fiscal year 2015.
- This declassified material included 57,913 pages. The release rate for the total number of pages reviewed by CIA in fiscal year 2015 was 62 percent.
- We continued to make excellent progress against our oldest FOIA cases. We closed nine of our ten oldest requests, including our seven oldest, and six of our ten oldest appeals. Our oldest case sought the 2005 CIA *Office of Inspector General Report (OIG) on CIA Accountability Regarding Findings and Conclusions of the Report of the*

Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001. To further contribute to the public record on these events, CIA also discretionarily released redacted versions of four other documents that relate to the 2005 OIG report and provide alternate views on the Agency's performance prior to 9/11. All five documents were posted to CIA's FOIA online reading room along with a press statement on the release issued by the CIA's Office of Public Affairs.

- As a reflection of our transparency initiatives, a noted Professor of Astronautics at the University of Southern California sent a letter of thanks to the CIA's FOIA office. He is acknowledging our FOIA program in his forthcoming book and noted in his letter that this should be "useful for assessment of the responsiveness and effectiveness of your program."