



UNITED STATES ACCESS BOARD

**Annual Freedom of Information Act
(FOIA) Report Fiscal Year 2019**

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.

Gretchen Jacobs
General Counsel/Chief FOIA Officer
U.S. Access Board
1331 F Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 272-0080
Email: foia@access-board.gov

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

<https://access-board.gov/about/foia-report.html>

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

For a paper copy of this annual FOIA report, please contact, Gretchen Jacobs, US Access Board General Counsel.

SECTION II: MAKING A FOIA REQUEST

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

U.S. Access Board
1331 F Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 272-0080
Email: foia@access-board.gov

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.

Some requests are not granted because they do not reasonably describe requested records, seek records that are not subject to release under FOIA, or the agency has no responsive records.

3. Provide a functional electronic link to agency FOIA regulations, including the agency's fee schedule.

US. Access Board's FOIA regulations, including the fee schedule, are codified at [36 C.F.R. part 1120](#).

SECTION III: ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS

1. Include the following 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. **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. As noted, as a micro-agency, OGE does not have any FOIA components, and so the information provided in this report is only for OGE overall.
 - e. **Consultation** – the procedure whereby the agency responding to a FOIA request first forwards a record to another 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 that forwarded in. 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 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 entireties 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. **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.
- 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
USAB	U.S. Access Board

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
5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 107(a)(2) (Ethics in Government Act of 1978)	Confidential financial disclosure report pertaining to certain government employees.	Meyerhoff v. EPA, 958 F.2d 1498, 1500-02 (9th Cir. 1992); Boyd v. Exec. Office for U.S. Attorneys, 161 F. Supp. 3d 1, 7 (D.D.C. 2015); Seife v. NIH, 874 F. Supp. 2d 248, 254 (S.D.N.Y. 2012).	USAB	1	1

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
USAB	0	34	26	8
AGENCY OVERALL	0	34	26	8

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	Total
USAB	2	12	2	26
AGENCY OVERALL	2	12	2	26

Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions

	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
USAB	5	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	5	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0

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
USAB	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	N/A	0	0

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
USAB	0	0	1	1	7	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	1	1	7	12	1	0	0	0	0	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
USAB	0	3	3	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	3	3	0

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
USAB	2	0	0	1	3
AGENCY OVERALL	2	0	0	1	3

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
USAB	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	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
USAB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

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
USAB	untimely	1	1
AGENCY OVERALL	Untimely	1	1

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
USAB	20	20	20	20
AGENCY OVERALL	20	20	20	20

VI.C.(5). TEN OLDEST PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**Agency/Component**

	10th Oldest Appeal	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Appeal
Date of Appeal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Agency Total

	10th Oldest Appeal	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Appeal
Date of Appeal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Simple

	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
USAB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	N/A	N/A

Complex

	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
USAB	19	24	1	120
AGENCY OVERALL	19	24	1	120

Expedited Processing

	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
USAB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
USAB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Complex

	COMPLEX
--	---------

						Da ys	Da ys	Da ys	Da ys	Da ys	Da ys	Da ys		
USAB	20	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
AGENCY OVERAL L	20	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23

VII.C. PROCESSED REQUESTS GRANTED EXPEDITED PROCESSING -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Compon ent	<1- 20 Da ys	21- 40 Da ys	41- 60 Da ys	61- 80 Da ys	81- 10 0 Da ys	10 1- 12 0 Da ys	12 1- 14 0 Da ys	14 1- 16 0 Da ys	16 1- 18 0 Da ys	18 1- 20 0 Da ys	20 1- 30 0 Da ys	30 1- 40 0 Da ys	401 + Da ys	TOT AL
USAB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERAL L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Simple

	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days
USAB	0	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	0	N/A	N/A

Complex

	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days
--	-------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------

USAB	8	145	104
AGENCY OVERALL	8	145	104

Expedited Processing

	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days
USAB	0	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	0	N/A	0	N/A	N/A

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

Agency/Component USAB

	10th Oldest Request	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request
Date of Receipt	n/a	n/a	2019-08-05	2019-06-18	2019-05-16	2019-02-22	2019-02-22	2019-02-22	2019-02-22	2019-02-20
Number of Days Pending	0	0	39	72	86	145	145	145	145	146

Agency Overall

	10th Oldest Request	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request
Date of Receipt	n/a	n/a	2019-08-05	2019-06-18	2019-05-16	2019-02-22	2019-02-22	2019-02-22	2019-02-22	2019-02-20
Number of Days Pending	0	0	39	72	86	145	145	145	145	146

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
USAB	0	0	N/A	N/A	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0

VIII.B. Requests for Fee Waiver

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
USAB	0	0	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	N/A	N/A

IX. FOIA Personnel and Costs

Personnel

Number of "Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Number of "Equivalent Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Total Number of "Full-Time FOIA Staff"
0	1.20	1.20

Costs

	Processing Costs	Litigation-Related Costs	Total Costs
USAB	159381.00	0.00	159381.00

AGENCY OVERALL	159381.00	0.00	159381.00
-------------------	-----------	------	-----------

X. Fees Collected for Processing Requests

Agency / Component	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
USAB	56.00	0.0004
AGENCY OVERALL	56.00	0.0004

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

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

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
USAB	8	0
AGENCY OVERALL	8	0

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
USAB	0	2	2	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	2	2	0

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

Agency/Component USAB

	10 th Oldest Consultation	9 th	8 th	7 th	6 th	5 th	4 th	3 rd	2 nd	Oldest Consultation
Date	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Agency Overall

	10th Oldest Consultation	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Consultation
Date	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Number of Requests Received

Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
8	34

Number of Requests Processed

Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
8	26

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

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
0	8

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

Number of Appeals Received

Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
0	3

Number of Appeals Processed

Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
0	3

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

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
0	0