

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Disclosure Services

February 1, 2006

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

The Departmental Offices (DO)

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)

Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)

Financial Management Service (FMS)

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

United States Mint (MINT)

Bureau of the Public Debt (BPD)

Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS)

Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA)

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)



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I. BASIC INFORMATION REGARDING REPORT.

This is the Fiscal Year 2005 FOIA Report for the Department of the Treasury. For purposes of administering the FOIA, the Department is divided into 10 bureaus. Each bureau is responsible for those records under its control, and each bureau will post its report on its own web site. Disclosure Services prepared the report in collaboration with the bureau FOIA Officers.

Questions about the report may be directed to:

Dale Underwood, Acting Departmental Disclosure Officer

Disclosure Services

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Address:

FOIA Request

Disclosure Services

Department of the Treasury

Washington, DC 20220

Treasury Department FOIA Home Page: www.treas.gov/foia/

Paper copies of this report may be obtained by contacting Disclosure Services or by downloading from the Treasury FOIA website at: http://www.treas.gov/foia/reports/index.html, "FY 2005 FOIA Report to the Attorney General."

II. How To Make A FOIA Request for Treasury Department records.

The Department of the Treasury's <u>Guide to Accessing Treasury Records</u> is available at <u>www.treas.gov/foia/</u>, or by contacting Disclosure Services, as described above.

II.A. Names, addresses, and numbers of Treasury bureau FOIA officers.

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Suite 5000

Washington, DC 20226

Bureau of Engraving & Printing (BEP)

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Address:

FOIA OFFICE Room 646 PD

14th & C Streets, SW Washington, DC 20228

Financial Management Service (FMS)

Tom Longnecker Ph: 202/874-6837 Fax: 202/874-7184

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Disclosure Branch 401 14th Street, SW

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Bureau of the Public Debt (BPD)

Denise Hofmann Ph: 304/480-8402 Fax: 304/480-8445

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FOIA Request

200 3rd Street, Rm. A5-A

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Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Joan McClean Ph: 202/622-6936 Fax: 202/622-0299

Address: FOIA Request HQ Disclosure Office

1111 Constitution Ave., NW, Rm. 7601

Washington, DC 20224

United States Mint (Mint)
Kathleen Saunders-Mitchell

Ph: 202/354-7292 Fax: 202/756-6100

Address: FOIA Request 801 9th Street, NW – 8th Floor Washington, DC 20220

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)
Gregory Smith

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Address:

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Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS)

Marilyn K. Burton Ph: 202/906-6467 Fax: 202/906-6353

Address: FOIA Branch 1700 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20552

Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA)

Amy P. Jones Ph: 202/927-7044 Fax: 202/622-3339

Address: FOIA Request

TIGTA Chief Counsel

1125 15TH Street, NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20005

II.B. Brief description of Treasury Department's response-time ranges.

For a breakdown of each bureau's response times, see Section VII of this report, "Compliance with Time Limits/Status of Pending Requests."

II.C. Brief description of why some requests are not granted.

The most common reasons reported by the bureaus regarding why requests for records could not be granted were: (1) protecting personal privacy; (2) deliberative process privilege; (3) the records reflected the internal practices involved in investigations or inspections; (4) the records contained confidential taxpayer information and other statutorily protected information; and (5) the records contained contractor confidential and proprietary commercial information. Others: records did not exist; procedural requirements were not followed.

III. Definition of Terms.

A. Agency-specific:

BEP Bureau of Engraving and Printing

BPD Bureau of the Public Debt

DO Departmental Offices

FinCEN Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

FMS Financial Management Service

IRS Internal Revenue Service

MINT United States Mint

OCC Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

OTS Office of Thrift Supervision

TIGTA Treasury Inspector General (Tax Administration)
TTB Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

B. Basic Terms Used in This Report

- 1. FOIA/PA request -- Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act request. A FOIA request is generally a request for access to records concerning a third party, an organization, or a particular topic of interest. A Privacy Act request is a request for records concerning oneself; such requests are also treated as FOIA requests. (All requests for access to records, regardless of which law is cited by the requester, are included in this report.)
- 2. Initial Request -- a request to a federal agency for access to records under the Freedom of Information Act.
- 3. Appeal -- a request to a federal agency asking that it review at a higher administrative level a full denial or partial denial of access to records under the Freedom of Information Act, or any other FOIA determination such as a matter pertaining to fees.

- 4. Processed Request or Appeal -- a request or appeal for which an agency has taken a final action on the request or the appeal in all respects.
- 5. 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 in each track are processed on a first-in/first-out basis. A requester who has an urgent need for records may request expedited processing (see below).
- 6. Expedited processing -- an agency will process a FOIA request on an expedited basis when a requester has shown an exceptional need or urgency for the records which warrants prioritization of his or her request over other requests that were made earlier.
- 7. Simple request -- a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in its fastest (non-expedited) track based on the volume and/or simplicity of records requested.
- 8. Complex request -- a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in a slower track based on the volume and/or complexity of records requested.
- 9. Grant -- an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.
- 10. Partial grant -- an agency decision to disclose a record in part in response to a FOIA request, deleting information determined to be exempt under one or more of the FOIA's exemptions: or a decision to disclose some records in their entireties, but to withhold others in whole or in part.
- 11. Denial -- an agency decision not to release any part of a record or records in response to a FOIA request because all the information in the requested records is determined by the agency to be exempt under one or more of the FOIA's exemptions, or for some procedural reason (such as because no record is located in response to a FOIA request).
- 12. Time limits -- the time period in the Freedom of Information Act for an agency to respond to a FOIA request (ordinarily 20 working days from proper receipt of a "perfected" FOIA request).
- 13. "Perfected" request -- a FOIA request for records which adequately describes the records sought, which has been received by the FOIA office of the agency or agency component in possession of the records, and for which there is no remaining question about the payment of applicable fees.
- 14. Exemption 3 statute -- a separate federal statute prohibiting the disclosure of a certain type of information and authorizing its withholding under FOIA subsection b)(3).

- 15. Median number -- the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.
- 16. 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.
- IV. Exemption 3 Statutes Relied on by the Department During Current Fiscal Year.

STATUTE	TYPE OF INFORMATION	UPHELD BY COURTS
5 U.S.C. 7114	Delineates the rights and duties of a labor organization which is the exclusive representative of the employees in the unit it represents.	Dublin v. Dept. of the Treasury, 555 F. Supp. 408, 412 (N.D. Ga. 1981), aff'd, 697 F.2d 1093 (unpublished table decision); NTEU v. OPM, No. 76-695, slip op at 49 (D.D.C. July 9, 1979)
41 U.S.C. 253b(m)	Technical proposals not incorporated into contracts.	Hornbostel v. Dept. of the Interior, 305 F. Supp. 2d 21 (D.D.C. 2003)
18 U.S.C. 701	Official Badges, identification cards. Prohibits the reproduction of official identification media. Used to withhold copies of the IRS employee identification badges and pocket commissions.	Not litigated
26 U.S.C. 6103	Confidentiality of Returns and Return Information: Prohibits the disclosure of (1) tax returns and return information of 3 rd party taxpayers (section 6103(a)); (2) the standards used for selection of returns for examination (section 6103(b)(2)); and (3) a requester's own return information if the release would seriously impair federal tax administration (section 6103(e)(7)).	Church of Scientology v. IRS, 484 U.S. 9 (1987); Aronson v. IRS, 973 F.2d 962 (1st Cir. 1992); Stebbins v. Sullivan, No. 90-5361, slip op. at 1 (D.C. Cir. July 22, 1992); Wishart v. Commissioner, C-97-20614-SW (N.D. Cal., decided August 6, 1998); Gillin v. IRS, No. 90-31 (D.N.H. Apr. 15, 1991), aff'd, 980 F.2d 819 (1st Cir. 1992); Casa Investors, Ltd. V. Gibbs, No. 88-2485, 1990 WL 180703 (D.D.C. Oct. 11, 1990); Chamberlain v. Kurtz, 589 F.2d at 827 (5th Cir).
26 U.S.C. 6105	Internal Revenue Code section 6105 protects records provided by foreign governments provided for use in tax administration.	Tax Analysts v. IRS, No. 99-0372, 2002 WL 1791162 (D.D.C. Aug. 6, 2002)

31 U.S.C. 5319	Bank Secrecy Act Records: Prohibits the disclosure of records. Generally used to withhold Currency Transaction Reports.	Small v. IRS, 820 F. Supp. 163 (D.N.J. 1992)
Rule 6(e)	Part of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure X Grand Jury Secrecy: regulates matters occurring before the Grand Jury. Used to withhold records used in Grand Jury proceedings.	Fund for Constitutional Gov't v. National Archives & Records Service, 656 F. 2 nd 856, 867 (D.C. Cir. 1981); Walston v. U.S. Department of Justice, 799 F. Supp. 193, 195 (D.D.C. 1992); Whitney Nat'l Bank v. Karam, 306 F.Supp.2d 678 (S.D. Tex. 2004)
31 U.S.C. § 5318(g)	Office of Thrift Supervision Criminal Referral Form	Lee v. Bankers Trust Co., 166 F.3d 540 (2d Cir. 2000); Cotton v. PrivateBank and Trust Co., 235 F. Supp.2d 809 (N.D. III. 2002)
12 U.S.C. § 1829b	Currency Transaction Reports, Foreign Bank Account Reports, Currency and Monetary Instrument Reports, Suspicious Activity Reports, and Registration of Money Services Businesses.	Not litigated.
12 U.S.C. 1951- 1959	Currency Transaction Reports, Foreign Bank Account Reports, Currency and Monetary Instrument Reports, Suspicious Activity Reports, and Registration of Money Services Businesses.	Not litigated.
31 U.S.C. 5311- 5331	Currency Transaction Reports, Foreign Bank Account Reports, Currency and Monetary Instrument Reports, Suspicious Activity Reports, and Registration of Money Services Businesses.	Not litigated.

V. Initial FOIA/PA Access Requests.

A. Number of initial requests.

Bureau	Number of Requests Pending as of End of Preceding Year	Number of Requests Received in Current Year	Number of Requests Processed in Current Year	Number of Requests Pending as of End of Current Year
DO	1,708	1,106	1,097	1,717
TTB	74	140	186	28
OCC	14	4,805	4,814	5
BEP	1	90	88	3
FMS	8	355	351	12
IRS	3,534	41,912	42,533	2,913
MINT	9	316	316	9
BPD	0	90	90	0
OTS	26	4,071	4,003	94
TIGTA	47	346	369	24
*FinCEN	119	99	140	78
TOTAL	5,540	53,330	53,987	4,883

*Note: revised from last year's report

B. Disposition of initial requests (continued on next page)

Bureau	Total Grants	Total Partial Grants	Total Denials	No Records	Referrals	Request Withdrawn	Fee- Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described
DO	171	350	19	61	304	35	10	35
TTB	45	21	20	49	5	12	1	0
OCC	4,371	20	18	124	162	40	42	14
BEP	41	36	1	5	0	3	2	0
FMS	92	56	8	128	26	2	1	3
IRS	16,650	2,637	428	11,795	1,054	256	1,720	0
MINT	227	11	1	30	2	1	3	1
BPD	22	18	1	14	19	1	0	8
OTS	3,796	78	18	42	8	59	1	0
TIGTA	27	122	41	94	3	6	4	0
FinCEN	9	17	69	7	7	1	0	0
TOTAL	25,451	3,366	624	12,349	1,590	416	1,784	61

B. Disposition of Initial Requests (continued from previous page)

Bureau	Not a Proper FOIA Request	Not an Agency Record	Duplicate	Lack of ID or 3 rd Party Authorization	No Response from Requester	Mail Returned	Litigation	Info on Internet
DO	10	8	0	0	72	18	2	2
TTB	7	24	1	0	1	0	0	0
OCC	2	5	7	0	9	0	0	0
BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FMS	6	4	8	17	0	0	0	0
IRS	6,274	0	1,719	0	0	0	0	0
MINT	4	0	0	36	0	0	0	0
BPD	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
OTS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
TIGTA	57	10	5	0	0	0	0	0
FinCEN	0	0	2	0	28	0	0	0
TOTAL	6,361	54	1,744	55	110	18	2	2

a. Number of times each FOIA exemption used:

Bureau	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)(A)	(7)(B)	(7)(C)	(7)(D)	(7)(E)	(7)(F)	(8)	(9)
DO	13	35	138	141	99	208	11	0	39	0	1	0	0	0
TTB	0	2	16	44	7	16	2	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
OCC	0	1	0	18	19	16	5	0	0	0	0	0	24	0
BEP	0	1	0	26	2	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
FMS	0	2	26	4	1	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IRS	0	176	2,489	33	463	557	658	2	851	66	1,070	12	0	0
MINT	0	2	1	3	3	9	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
BPD	0	2	0	10	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTS	0	5	0	78	24	59	2	1	6	1	4	0	55	0
TIGTA	0	19	61	0	33	3	9	0	153	13	10	5	0	0
FinCEN	0	0	85	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
TOTAL	13	245	2,816	357	653	923	687	3	1,057	81	1,087	17	79	0

VI. Appeals of initial denials of FOIA/PA requests (continued on next page)

<u>Bureau</u>	Number of Appeals Received in Current Year	Number of Appeals Processed in Current Year	Number of Appeals Completely Upheld in Current Year	Number of Appeals Partially Reversed in Current Year	Number of Appeals Completely Reversed
DO	9	31	11	1	2
TTB	2	1	0	1	0
OCC	8	1	0	0	0
BEP	3	3	2	1	0
FMS	5	5	0	0	1
IRS	244	324	283	23	9
MINT	4	1	0	0	1
BPD	3	3	0	0	0
OTS	12	12	4	6	1
TIGTA	35	30	19	7	0
FinCEN	2	2	2	0	0
TOTAL	327	413	321	39	14

4. Other reasons for non-disclosure on appeals (Continued from previous page)

<u>Bureau</u>	No Records	Referrals	With- drawn	Fee- Related	Records Not reasonably Described	Not a Proper FOIA or Appeal	Not an Agency Record	Duplicate Request
DO	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TTB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OCC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FMS	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IRS	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	7
Mint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BPD	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TIGTA	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
FinCEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	27	2	1	1	0	0	0	8

a. Number of times each FOIA exemption was used in an appeal

Bureau	(1)	(2)	3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)(A)	$(7)(\mathbf{B})$	(7)(C)	$(7)(\mathbf{D})$	$(7)(\mathbf{E})$	$(7)(\mathbf{F})$	(8)	(9)
DO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TTB	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
OCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BEP	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FMS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IRS	0	4	67	0	23	27	5	0	33	12	27	6	0	1
MINT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BPD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTS	0	4	0	7	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	9	0
TIGTA	0	0	5	0	2	0	1	0	7	1	0	0	0	0
FinCEN	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	10	74	9	32	29	7	0	42	13	27	6	9	1

VII. Compliance with time limits/status of pending requests

A. Median Time for Processing Requests

* Simple request limited to the Office of Tax Policy

Bureau	Simpl	e Requests	Comple	ex Requests	Requests Accorded Expedited Processing		
	Number of Requests Processed	Median Number of Days to Process	Number of Requests Processed	Median Number of Days to Process	Number of Requests Processed	Median Number of Days to Process	
DO*	307	2	790	251	0	0	
TTB	168	86	17	93	1	1	
OCC	4,635	2	179	73	0	0	
BEP	76	3	12	31	0	0	
FMS	0	0	351	9.5	0	0	
IRS	0	0	42,533	21	0	0	
MINT	0	0	316	15	0	0	
BPD	0	0	90	3	0	0	
OTS	0	0	4,003	12	0	0	
TIGTA	208	4	161	30	0	0	
FinCEN	18	6	122	95	0	0	
TOTAL	5,412	N/A	48,574	N/A	1	N/A	

B. Status of pending requests

Bureaus	Number of Requests Pending as of End of Fiscal Year	Median Number of Days Pending
DO	1,717	648
TTB	28	49
OCC	5	44
BEP	3	42
FMS	12	24
IRS	2,913	22
Mint	9	338
BPD	0	0
OTS	94	94
TIGTA	24	19
FinCEN	78	270
TOTAL	4,883	N/A

VIII. Additional Information/Explanation.

The Department of the Treasury received six (6) requests for expedited processing and processed one (1) request on an expedited basis. The median number of days to process this request was one (1) day.

In DO, the Office of Tax Policy has identified the need for additional resources which will improve the FOIA program within that office by conducting searches in a more timely manner and supporting other aspects of FOIA processing.

FinCEN will continue to customize its electronic tracking database, review ways to shorten the turn-around response time on searches conducted, and provide supportive resources as needed in an effort to fully comply with E-FOIA mandates to further improve timeliness of FOIA performance and reduce the backlog.

TTB is currently in the review stage of preparing a FOIA directive and a system of procedures for the TTB FOIA program that are more specific to its requirements. TTB has also identified the need for another full time employee with FOIA background and a part-time employee for supporting the search and review functions of the FOIA program.

IX. Costs/FOIA Staffing

Bureaus	Staffing Levels			Total Costs (staff and resources combined)		
	Number of Full Time Personnel	Number of Personnel with Part Time or Occasional FOIA Duties (in Total Work-Years)	Total Number of Personnel (in Work- Years)	FOIA Processing (including appeals)	Litigation- related activities	Total Costs
DO	4	18.46	22.46	548,542.84	30,738.00	579,280.84
TTB	1	.54	1.54	117,853.12	0	117,853.12
OCC	7	1	8	626,690.00	0	626,690.00
BEP	1	.40	1.40	160,722.00	0	160,722.00
FMS	0	.60	.60	57,554.23	0	57,554.23
IRS	4	81	85	10,312,722.00	698,611.00	11,011,333.00
MINT	1	0	1	100,163.00	0	100,163.00
BPD	1	.20	1.20	120,000.00	0	120,000.00
OTS	2	1.6	3.60	258,521.00	0	258,521.00
TIGTA	4.15*	.45	4.60	513,831.00**	3,534.00	517,365.00
FinCEN	1	.10	1.10	104,000.00	0	104,000.00
TOTAL	26.15	104.35	130.50	12,920,599.19	732,883.00	13,653,482.19

^{*}The use of a partial staff year is based on the loss of 3 full-time employees and gain of 3 full-time employees during the fiscal year.

X. FOIA Fees

	FOIA Fees		
	Total Fees collected	Percentage of Total Costs	
TOTAL	\$520,021.15	3.81%	

XI. Treasury Department FOIA Implementing Regulations.

The Department's FOIA regulations can be found at 31 CFR Part 1, Subpart A. The regulations can be accessed at: www.treas.gov/foia/foiaregs.pdf.

^{**}This figure includes the cost (\$86,000) to implement automated FOIA processing with the purchase of FOIAXpress, including installation, maintenance, and license fees for the fiscal year.