

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2003**

**THE COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE
WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED**

I. Basic Information Regarding Report

A. Name, title, address, and telephone number of person(s) to be contacted with questions about the report.

Mr. G. John Heyer, General Counsel
Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled
1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 10800
Arlington, VA 22202-3259
Telephone: 703-603-0665
Telephone: 703-603-7740

B. Electronic address for report on the World Wide Web.

http://www.jwod.gov/jwod/Documents/foia_report_fy03.doc

C. How to obtain a copy of the report in paper form.

Contact Mr. Heyer at the address or telephone number listed above.

II. How to Make a FOIA Request

A. Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all individual agency components and offices that receive FOIA requests.

Mr. Leon A. Wilson, Jr., Executive Director
Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled
1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 10800
Arlington, VA 22202-3259
Telephone: 703-603-7740

B. Brief description of the agency's response-time ranges.

Average processing time in FY 2003 was 7.4 days.

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

The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (The Committee) denied information only three times in 2003, twice under FOIA Exemption 4 (privileged or confidential, commercial or financial information) and once under FOIA Exemption 5 (pre-decisional, deliberative process information). The Committee did not disclose information in response to eight requests because the agency did not have the requested records in some cases, or the requesters withdrew their requests in other cases.

III. Definitions of Terms and Acronyms Used in the Report

A. Agency-specific acronyms or other terms.

None

B. Basic terms, expressed in common terminology.

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 (nonexpedited) 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 entirety, 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

A. List of Exemption 3 statutes relied on by agency during current fiscal year.

1. Brief description of type(s) of information withheld under each statute.

No Exemption 3 statutes were used as a basis for denying information in FY 2003.

2. Statement of whether a court has upheld the use of each statute. If so, then cite example.

N/A

V. Initial FOIA/PA Access Requests

A. Numbers of initial requests.

1. Number of requests pending as of end of preceding fiscal year 1

2. Number of requests received during current fiscal year 25

3. Number of requests processed during current fiscal year 26

4. Number of requests pending as of end of current fiscal year 0

B. Disposition of initial requests.

1. Number of total grants 15

2. Number of partial grants ____ 3 ____

3. Number of denials ____ 0 ____

a. Number of times each FOIA exemption used (counting each exemption once per request)

(1) Exemption 1 ____ 0 ____

(2) Exemption 2 ____ 0 ____

(3) Exemption 3 ____ 0 ____

(4) Exemption 4 ____ 2 ____

(5) Exemption 5 ____ 1 ____

(6) Exemption 6 ____ 0 ____

(7) Exemption 7(A) ____ 0 ____

(8) Exemption 7(B) ____ 0 ____

(9) Exemption 7(C) ____ 0 ____

(10) Exemption 7(D) ____ 0 ____

(11) Exemption 7(E) ____ 0 ____

(12) Exemption 7(F) ____ 0 ____

(13) Exemption 8 ____ 0 ____

(14) Exemption 9 ____ 0 ____

4. Other reasons for nondisclosure (total) __ 8 __

a. no records ____ 2 ____

b. referrals ____ 0 ____

c. request withdrawn ____ 4 ____

d. fee-related reason ____ 0 ____

e. records not reasonably described ____ 0 ____

f. not a proper FOIA request for some other reason ____ 0 ____

g. not an agency record ____ 2 ____

h. duplicate request ____ 0 ____

i. other (specify) ____ 0 ____

VI. Appeals of Initial Denials of FOIA/PA Requests

A. Numbers of appeals.

1. Number of appeals received during fiscal year ____ 0 ____
2. Number of appeals processed during fiscal year ____ 0 ____

B. Disposition of appeals.

1. Number completely upheld ____ n/a ____
2. Number partially reversed ____ n/a ____
3. Number completely reversed ____ n/a ____

a. number of times each FOIA exemption used (counting each exemption once per appeal)

- (1) Exemption 1 ____ 0 ____
 - (2) Exemption 2 ____ 0 ____
 - (3) Exemption 3 ____ 0 ____
 - (4) Exemption 4 ____ 0 ____
 - (5) Exemption 5 ____ 0 ____
 - (6) Exemption 6 ____ 0 ____
 - (7) Exemption 7(A) ____ 0 ____
 - (8) Exemption 7(B) ____ 0 ____
 - (9) Exemption 7(C) ____ 0 ____
 - (10) Exemption 7(D) ____ 0 ____
 - (11) Exemption 7(E) ____ 0 ____
 - (12) Exemption 7(F) ____ 0 ____
 - (13) Exemption 8 ____ 0 ____
 - (14) Exemption 9 ____ 0 ____
4. Other reasons for nondisclosure (total) ____ 0 ____
 - a. no records ____ 0 ____
 - b. referrals ____ 0 ____
 - c. request withdrawn ____ 0 ____
 - d. fee-related reason ____ 0 ____
 - e. records not reasonably described ____ 0 ____

f. not a proper FOIA request for some other reason ___ 0 ___

g. not an agency record ___ 0 ___

h. duplicate request ___ 0 ___

i. other (specify) ___ 0 ___

VII. Compliance with Time Limits/Status of Pending Requests

A. Median processing time for requests processed during the year.

1. Simple requests (if multiple tracks used).

a. number of requests processed ___ 0 ___

b. median number of days to process ___ N/A ___

2. Complex requests (specify for any and all tracks used).

a. number of requests processed ___ 26 ___

b. median number of days to process ___ 5 ___

3. Requests accorded expedited processing.

a. number of requests processed ___ 0 ___

b. median number of days to process ___ N/A ___

B. Status of pending requests.

1. Number of requests pending as of end of current fiscal year ___ 0 ___

2. Median number of days that such requests were pending as of that date ___ N/A ___

VIII. Expedited processing.

A. Number of requests accorded expedited processing.

1. Number received ___ 0 ___

2. Number granted ___ 0 ___

IX. Costs/FOIA Staffing

A. Staffing levels.

1. Number of full-time FOIA personnel ___ 0 ___

2. Number of personnel with part-time or occasional FOIA duties (in total work-years)
_____.5_____

3. Total number of personnel (in work-years) _____.5_____

B. Total costs (including staff and all resources).

1. FOIA processing (including appeals) ____ Unknown: not separately calculated by agency ____

2. Litigation-related activities (estimated) ____ N/A ____

3. Total costs ____ Unknown: not separately calculated by agency ____

4. (Optional) Comparison with previous year(s) (including percentage of change) ____ Unknown: not separately calculated by agency ____

C. (Optional) Statement of additional resources needed for FOIA compliance ____ Unknown: not separately calculated by agency ____

X. Fees

A. Total amount of fees collected by agency for processing requests ____ \$270.68 ____

B. Percentage of total costs ____ Unknown: not separately calculated by agency ____

XI. FOIA Regulations (Including Fee Schedule)

The Committee's regulations appear at 41 Part CFR 51-8, which is attached to the paper copy of this report and is available on the Internet at http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_02/41cfr51-8_02.html.