



SUMMARY OF ANNUAL FOIA REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Each year, the Office of Information Policy (OIP) compiles a summary of the information contained in the Annual FOIA Reports prepared by the fifteen federal departments and eighty-two federal agencies that are subject to the FOIA. These ninety-seven departments and agencies prepare an Annual FOIA Report each fiscal year that includes detailed statistics on the number and disposition of FOIA requests and appeals received, processed, and pending at each agency. These reports are required to be submitted to the Attorney General each year, no later than February 1st. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(e)(1) (2006 & Supp. III 2009).

With the introduction of FOIA.Gov, the data from all agencies' Fiscal Year 2010 Annual FOIA Reports is now available online, and can be downloaded in an open format. All of the data for Fiscal Year 2010 summarized in this report is available on FOIA.Gov. OIP prepared this summary to provide an overall picture of FOIA activity across the entire government. While previous summaries contained a snapshot of government data, the launch of FOIA.Gov allowed OIP to include statistics in this summary that were not readily available in years past, and will allow for a more detailed statistical analysis in the coming years as more data is added to FOIA.Gov. As not all Annual FOIA Report data from previous fiscal years is available on FOIA.Gov, for the purposes of making comparisons with previous years, OIP compiled various statistics directly from the published Annual FOIA Reports of federal departments and agencies in order to illustrate different data trends over time. Annual FOIA Reports from all departments and agencies going back to Fiscal Year 1998 can be located in the [Reports](#) section of the [OIP website](#).

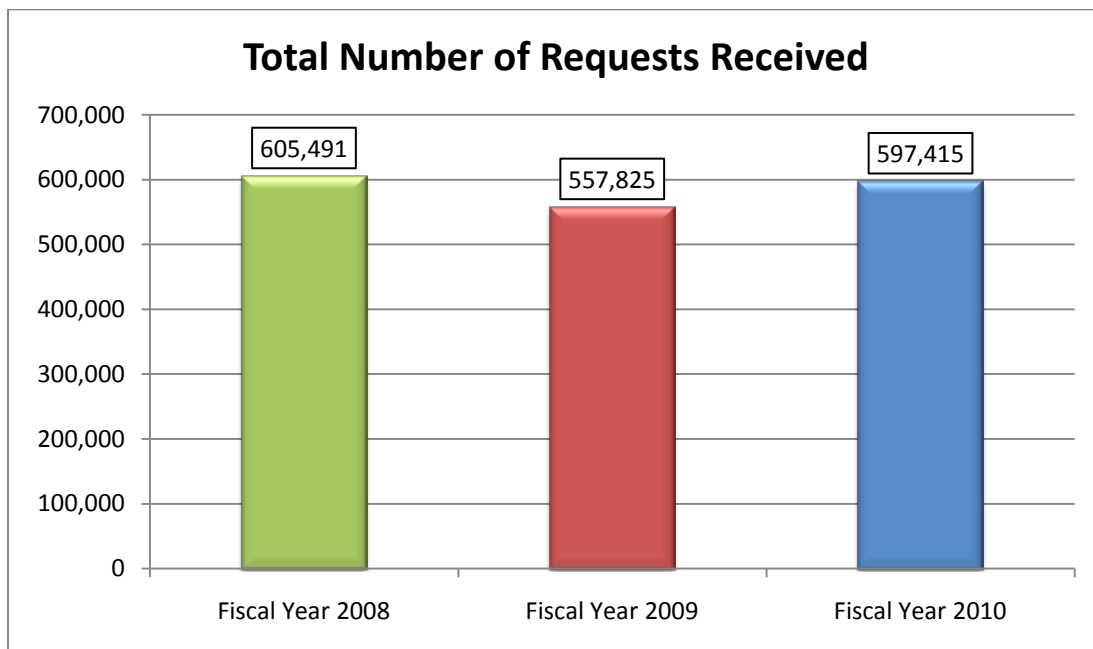
“Based on our review of both the Chief FOIA Officer Reports and agency Annual FOIA Reports, it is clear that agencies have made real progress in applying the presumption of openness, improving the efficiency of their FOIA processes, reducing their backlogs of pending FOIA requests, expanding their use of technology, and making more information available proactively. While there is always more work that remains to be done, for the second year in a row agencies have shown that they are improving FOIA compliance and increasing transparency.”

*-Melanie Ann Pustay
Statement before the Committee on
the Judiciary, United States Senate*

FOIA REQUESTS

Number of Requests Received

The total number of FOIA requests received by all federal departments and agencies was 597,415 in Fiscal Year 2010. This total represents an *increase* of nearly forty thousand requests, or just over seven percent from last fiscal year, when the government received 557,825 requests. However, this number is still slightly down from the Fiscal Year 2008 total of 605,941 requests received.



Of all federal departments, DHS reported the largest number of requests received with 130,098. DOD reported the second highest number of requests received with 73,573. HHS and DOJ recorded the third and fourth highest number of requests received with totals of 63,839 and 63,682 respectively. State reported the fifth highest number of requests received with 30,206.

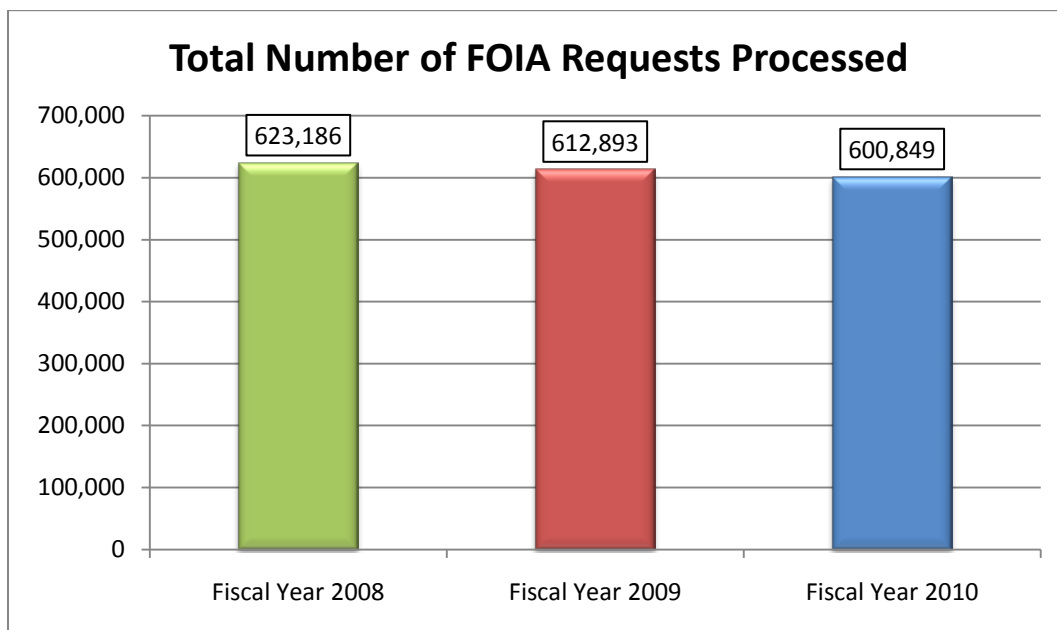
Among federal agencies, SSA received the most requests by a wide margin with 32,997. EEOC and NARA received the next highest numbers of requests, at 16,652 and 15,781 respectively. SEC received the fourth highest number of requests with 10,461, and EPA received the fifth highest number of requests at 10,409.

The federal departments that reported receiving the lowest number of requests during Fiscal Year 2010 were the Department of Commerce, which received 2,113, followed closely by Education which received 2,114 requests. DOE, which received 2,206 requests, was the only other federal department to receive less than 3,000 requests.

When looking at federal agencies, the following received less than ten requests: Administrative Conference of the United States (2), Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency (2), U.S. African Development Foundation (4), Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (4), Surface Transportation Board (7), Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (8), and the Inter-American Foundation (9). Additionally, another six agencies received less than twenty requests in Fiscal Year 2010: Committee for Purchase for People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (12), Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (16), American Battle Monuments Commission (17), Office of National Drug Control Policy (19), National Capital Planning Commission (19), and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (19).

Number of Requests Processed

The total number of FOIA requests processed in Fiscal Year 2010 across all federal departments and agencies was 600,849 FOIA. This represents about a two percent *decrease* when compared with the number of requests processed in Fiscal Year 2009, which was 612,893. Still, federal departments and agencies processed 3,434 more requests than were received, which demonstrates their continued efforts in reducing their overall request backlog.



Among federal departments, the four departments that received the most requests also processed the most requests in Fiscal Year 2010: DHS (138,651), DOD (74,790), HHS (69,860), and DOJ (63,368). VA reported the fifth highest number of requests processed with 28,857.

Of all federal agencies, SSA processed the most requests by a wide margin with 33,012. EEOC and NARA processed the next highest numbers of requests, with 16,343 and 15,573 respectively. SEC processed the fourth highest number of requests with 10,544, and EPA

processed the fifth highest number of requests at 10,071. These five agencies, in the same order, also received the most requests of all federal agencies.

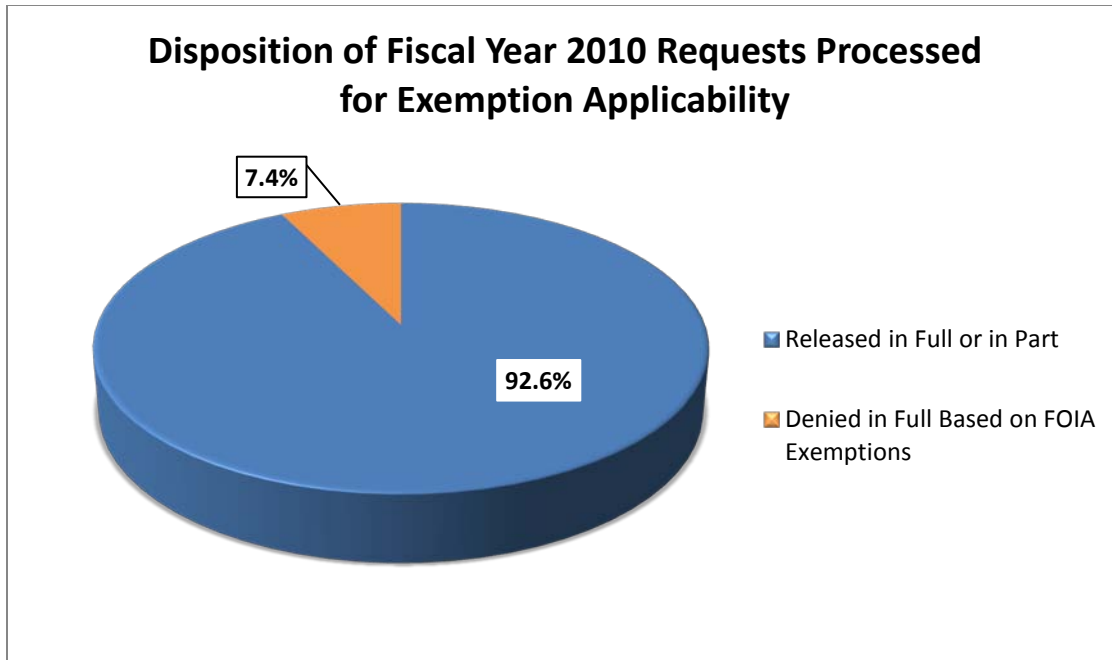
The federal departments that reported processing the lowest number of requests during Fiscal Year 2010 were Commerce, which processed 2,021, followed closely by Education with 2,077 processed requests. DOE, which processed 2,149 requests, and HUD, which processed 3,277 requests, were the only other federal departments to process less than 4,000 requests.

When looking at federal agencies, forty-three agencies processed less than 100 requests in Fiscal Year 2010. Of those, the following fifteen agencies processed less than twenty requests: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (0), Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (2), Administrative Conference of the United States (2), U.S. African Development Foundation (4), Surface Transportation Board (7), Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (8), Inter-American Foundation (9), Legal Services Corporation (10), U.S. Trade and Development Agency (11), Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (12), Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (16), American Battle Monuments Commission (18), Office of National Drug Control Policy (19), National Capital Planning Commission (19), and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (19).

Disposition of Requests

Of the 600,849 requests processed during Fiscal Year 2010, 407,283 were processed for exemption applicability, meaning there were responsive records that were reviewed for potential disclosure. Of that number, 227,227 requests, or almost fifty-six percent of requests, resulted in a full release of information, and almost ninety-three percent resulted in release of either some or all of the requested information. This marks the second year in a row where the overall release percentage exceeded ninety percent. Additionally, this also represents an overall increase in the number of full grants by over six percent when compared to the number of full grants reported in Fiscal Year 2009 (213,000).

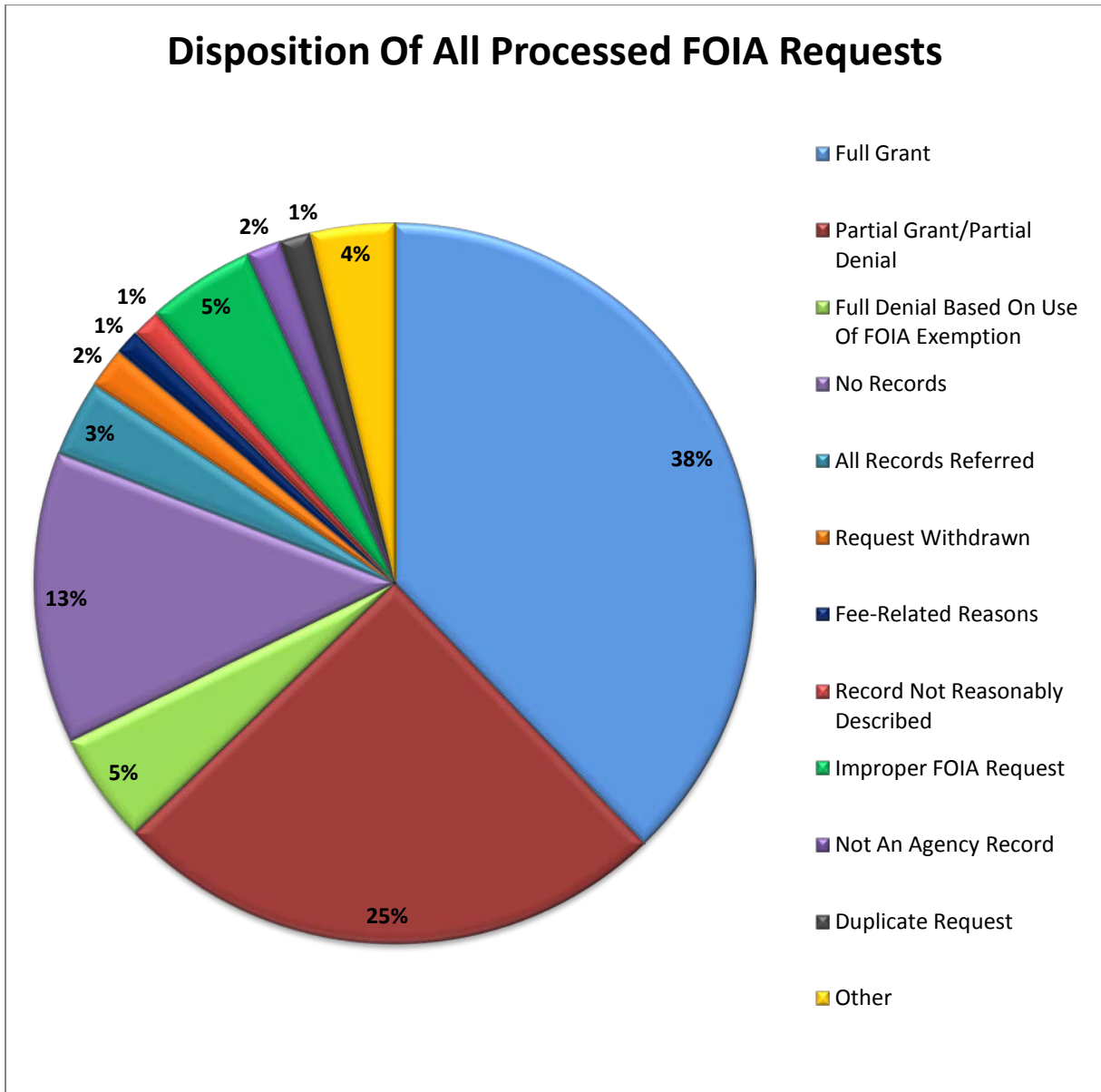
Federal departments and agencies combined provided a partial grant of requested records in 150,184 requests. This is a drop from the nearly 170,000 such partial grants of requests reported in Fiscal Year 2009. Full denials based on the use of a FOIA Exemption accounted for just over seven percent of these requests, or 29,872 requests.



Eleven of fifteen departments – USDA, Commerce, DOD, Education, DOE, DHS, HUD, Interior, DOJ, DOT, and Treasury - released records in full or in part in ninety percent of requests processed for exemption applicability. Four departments – USDA, HHS, Interior, and DOJ – released records in full in over seventy percent of such requests. Another seven departments – Commerce, DOD, DOE, HUD, State, DOT, and Treasury – released records in full in over sixty percent of requests processed for exemption applicability.

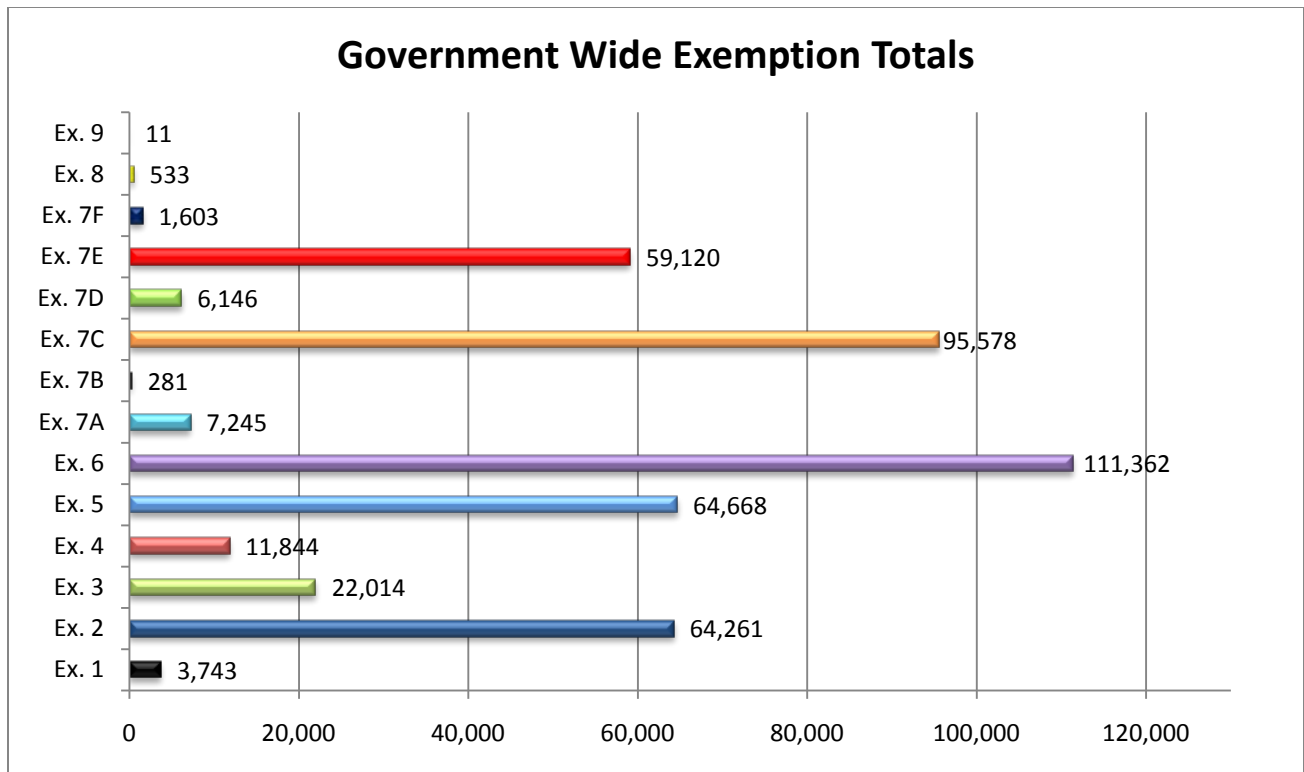
Among federal agencies, 85,520 requests were processed for exemption applicability. Records were released in full or in part in 80,929 of these requests, or in over ninety-four percent of requests. Just over five percent of requests, or 4,591, were denied in full based on the use of FOIA exemptions by agencies.

When looking at the total number of FOIA requests processed at federal departments and agencies (600,849), and not just those requests that were processed for exemption applicability, we find that departments and agencies reported that they had no responsive records for just over thirteen percent of all requests, which is the same percentage from the previous fiscal year. Additionally, less than two percent of all requests processed were withdrawn by the requester. The chart below shows the various dispositions of all FOIA requests from across the entire government, and their percentage of all processed FOIA requests.



Use of Exemptions

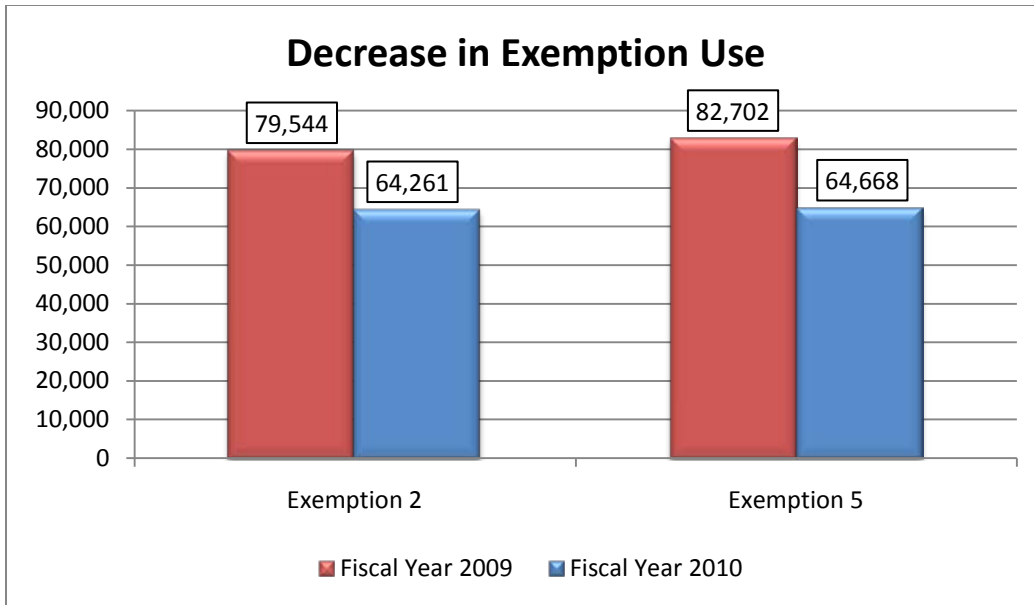
The three most cited exemptions remained the same for the second year in a row. The most cited exemption was Exemption 6 (cited 111,362 times), which is used to protect matters of personal privacy. Exemption 7C (cited 95,578 times), which also protects matters of personal privacy, was the next most frequently cited exemption. Finally, Exemption 5 (cited 64,668 times) was applied the third highest number of times, which is used to protect certain privileged information.



The least cited FOIA Exemption in Fiscal Year 2010 was Exemption 9, which concerns geological information on wells (cited 11 times). Among all departments and agencies, only three departments – Interior, USDA, and DOE – as well as one agency, NARA, cited Exemption 9 in their processing of requests. Exemption 7(b), which concerns information which would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication was the second least cited Exemption (cited 281 times). The third least cited FOIA Exemption was Exemption 8, which concerns information on the supervision of financial institutions (cited 533 times).

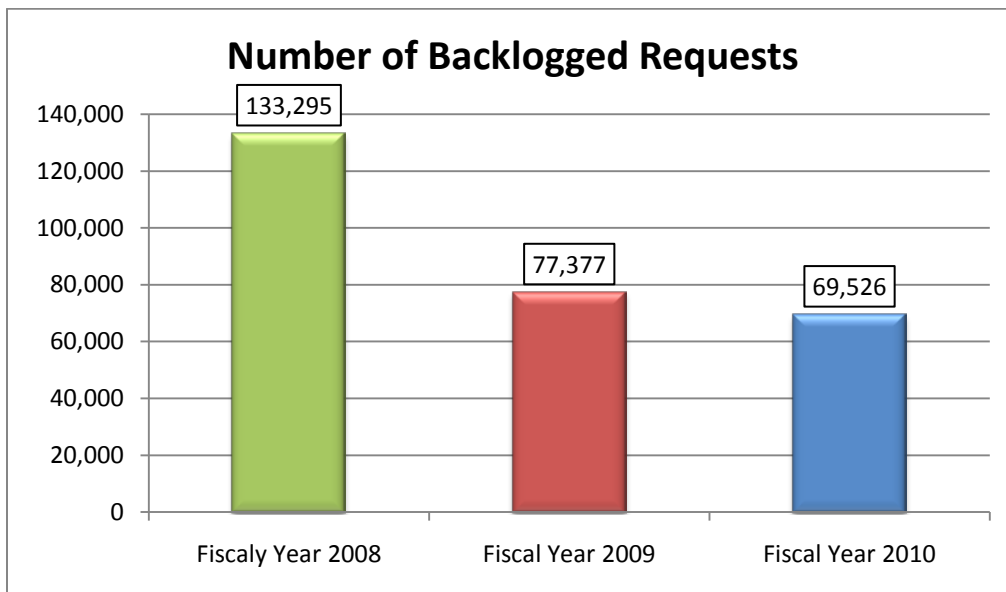
Under Exemption 3 of the FOIA, agencies withhold information pursuant to a variety of nondisclosure statutes. OIP is posting separately a chart of all Exemption 3 statutes that departments and agencies cited during Fiscal Year 2010.

Notably, there was a significant drop this past fiscal year in the number of times both Exemption 2 and Exemption 5 were invoked across the government. As shown above, Exemption 2 was cited 64,261 times, and Exemption 5 was cited 64,668 times to withhold information in Fiscal Year 2010. For Exemption 2, this represents a nearly nineteen percent decrease in use from Fiscal Year 2009 (79,544 times cited), and for Exemption 5 this is a nearly twenty-two percent decrease in use (82,702 times cited) by all departments and agencies. The use of Exemption 2 will continue to change during the next year as a result of the Supreme Court's decision in *Milner v. Department of the Navy*, 131 S. CT. 1259 (2011). OIP has posted [guidance on the use of Exemption 2](#) in the [Guidance](#) section of the [OIP website](#).



Backlog Reduction for Requests

Overall, the number of backlogged requests pending as of the end of Fiscal Year 2010 was 69,526. This figure represents a *decrease* of over ten percent when compared with the number of backlogged requests at the end of Fiscal Year 2009, which was 77,377. While the decrease in the backlog was not as sizable as we noted between Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009, it still represents a significant reduction in backlogged requests, and shows that departments and agencies are continuing to work hard on backlog reduction. This also marks the second straight year of backlog reduction across the government.



All federal departments reported having some backlog of requests. The Department of State reported having a backlog of 20,519 requests. This is a significant increase over their reported Fiscal Year 2009 backlog of 8,784. This figure alone accounts for over twenty-nine percent of the total backlog across the entire government. DHS continued to lower its request backlog, which was reduced to 11,383 requests, compared with 18,918 at the end of Fiscal Year 2009. The third highest reported backlog among federal departments was at HHS, which reported a backlog of 9,552 requests. These three departments account for nearly sixty percent of the backlog of all federal departments and agencies. DOD has the fourth highest backlog at 7,657 requests and DOJ is fifth, with a backlog of 5,160 requests. The departments with the fewest backlogged requests were HUD (182), DOC (195), DOE (334) and the Department of Education (341).

By contrast, thirty-one federal agencies reported having no backlogged requests, which was one higher than in Fiscal Year 2009. An additional twenty-nine agencies reported a backlog of twenty or fewer requests. Of federal agencies, NARA reported having the highest request backlog with 7,064. There is then a significant drop in number, with the CIA reporting the next highest request backlog at 715 and EPA reporting the third highest number of backlogged requests at 329.

Ten Oldest Pending Backlogged Requests

A distinct aspect of backlog reduction involves closing the oldest of the pending requests at an agency. Progress continues to be made by the departments and agencies on this point, but there still remains much to be done in this critical area of backlog reduction.

The ten oldest requests across the entire government date from 1992 and 1993. Nine of these requests are pending at NARA, and one at DOD. Of the fifteen federal departments, only DOD reported having requests that dated from the 1990s, as compared to two departments in Fiscal Year 2009, and six in Fiscal Year 2008. The remaining fourteen departments reported that their oldest pending requests were dated as follows: Treasury (7/1/02), HHS (1/19/01), DOE (2/14/01), State (8/2/01), Interior (10/9/02): DOJ (9/4/03), DHS (10/27/04), DOT (4/26/05), Commerce (1/6/06), USDA (10/16/06), Labor (10/5/06), HUD (2/21/08), Education (12/17/08), VA (1/5/09). It is important to note that the oldest pending requests at each department or agency are calculated by the number of days the request has been pending. Sometimes an agency suspends the processing of a request when, for example, a requester needs to agree to pay fees. Because of this fact, the oldest requests are calculated by the number of days they have been pending.

Among federal agencies, in addition to NARA, the CIA had two requests dating from the 1990s. After NARA's and CIA's ten oldest, the next oldest request reported by an agency was EPA, with a request that has been pending for 1461 days, since December 1, 2004. Thirty-seven agencies reported that the oldest pending request at their agency was from Fiscal Year 2010,

which is an increase of nine agencies that reported the same statistic at the end of Fiscal Year 2009.

Requests for Expedited Processing

During Fiscal Year 2010, departments and agencies granted 1,336 requests for expedited processing. This figure represents a twenty-six percent decrease when compared with the 1,807 granted expedited requests in Fiscal Year 2009. Departments and agencies denied 4,736 requests for expedited processing, representing a nearly twenty-three percent increase when compared with the 3,857 denials reported in Fiscal Year 2009. Of federal departments, DOD reported the highest number of grants of expedited processing, reporting that it granted 285 requests. DOJ, which granted 261 requests for expedited processing, and Labor with 213 grants, are the departments with the second and third highest number of grants. Among agencies, EPA reported the highest number of such grants with 43, followed by NASA with 21, and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and FDIC both with 18.

The average number of days to adjudicate requests for expedited processing across the entire government was 6.67 days. The number of requests adjudicated within ten calendar days was 4,696, or in just over seventy-seven percent of requests.

Processing Time for Simple Requests

When processing simple requests, eight departments - Commerce, DOE, HHS, Interior, DOJ, Labor, DOT, and Treasury - reported processing simple requests within a median number of twenty days or fewer. Additionally, for those agencies that reported data on the processing of simple requests, sixty-seven agencies also reported processing simple requests within a median number of twenty days or fewer. The highest median for simple requests among departments was reported by HUD at 1434 days. The highest median for simple requests for agencies was the Office of the Director of National Intelligence with 88 days.

The average processing time for simple requests across all departments and agencies that reported data was 28.34 days. Four departments – Commerce, Interior, Labor, and Treasury – and fifty-five of the agencies that reported data, reported that their average processing time for simple requests was twenty days or fewer. The highest average processing time for simple requests at departments was reported by HUD at 312 days. The highest average processing time for simple

“Transparency is... about making government, and making the public who becomes informed by our transparency, the best that we all can be. There will always be information that we can’t share, but those of you in this room are fulfilling on a very basic principle of democracy: that if we give people the information, they will create a better government.”

-Thomas J. Perrelli
Associate Attorney General,
and DOJ Chief FOIA Officer

Remarks at 2011 DOJ Sunshine
Week Event

requests at agencies was reported by the Legal Services Corporation at 156 days.

Processing Time for Complex Requests

When looking at the processing of complex requests, four departments – Interior, Labor, Treasury, and VA - reported processing complex requests within a median number of twenty days or fewer. Additionally, for those agencies that reported data on the processing of complex requests, nine agencies also reported processing complex requests within a median number of twenty days or fewer. The remaining departments that reported data for the median number of days to process complex requests, reported medians ranging from 23 to 1,716 days. In Fiscal Year 2009, this range was from 32 to 339 days. The remaining agencies that reported data for the median number of days to process complex requests, reported medians ranging from 22 to 725. In Fiscal Year 2009, this range was from 22 to 445 days.

The average processing time for complex requests across all departments and agencies that reported data was 118.93 days. Two departments – Treasury and VA – as well as four of the agencies that reported data, reported that their average processing time for complex requests was twenty days or fewer. The highest average processing time for complex requests at departments was reported by HUD at 706 days. The highest average processing time for complex requests at agencies was reported by the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board at 669 days.

Processing Time for Expedited Requests

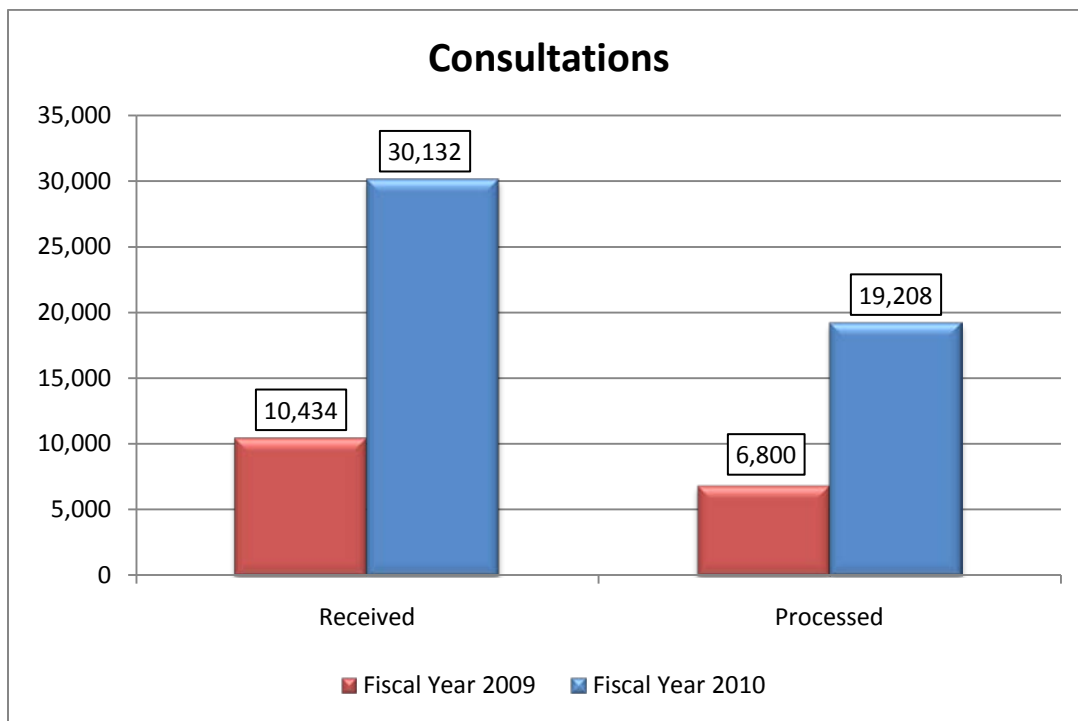
When looking at the processing of expedited requests, eight departments - Commerce, DOE, DHS, Interior, Labor, DOT, Treasury, and VA - reported processing expedited requests within a median number of twenty days or fewer. Additionally, for those agencies that reported data on the processing of expedited requests, twenty agencies also reported processing expedited requests within a median number of twenty days or fewer. The remaining departments that reported data on the median number of days to process expedited requests, reported medians ranging from 23 to 280 days. In Fiscal Year 2009, this range was from 25 to 74 days. The remaining agencies that reported data on median number of days to process expedited requests, reported medians ranging from 24 to 134.5 days. In Fiscal Year 2009, this range was from 30 to 230 days.

Finally, the average processing time for expedited requests across all departments and agencies that reported data was 38.76 days. Five departments – USDA, Commerce, DOD, Labor, and VA – as well as eighteen agencies that reported data, reported that their average processing time for expedited requests was twenty days or fewer. The highest average processing time for expedited requests at departments was reported by State at 435 days. The highest average processing time for expedited requests at agencies was reported by USAID at 163.17 days.

CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS

In Fiscal Year 2010, departments and agencies received a combined 30,132 consultations, compared with 10,434 in Fiscal Year 2009. This represents a nearly two hundred percent increase in the number of consultations received throughout the government. Among all federal departments, State received the most consultations by a wide margin with 24,673 received. This alone is an increase of 18,659 from Fiscal Year 2009 for State, and accounts for approximately eighty-two percent of consultations received by the government overall. DOJ received the second highest total with 1,534 consultations received, followed by DOD with 1,528, DHS with 529, and DOE with 237 consultations received. Treasury, which received 144 consultations, is the only other department to receive over one hundred consultations in Fiscal Year 2010. Both Education and HUD reported receiving no consultations.

Among agencies, as was true last year, CIA received the most consultations by wide margin with 1,109, which is over two hundred more consultations than they received in Fiscal Year 2009. EPA followed with the second highest total of consultations received at agencies with 44, and followed in turn by OMB with 30, and finally by USPS with 20 consultations received. None of the remaining seventy-eight agencies received more than 20 consultations.



The total number of consultations processed by departments and agencies was 19,208, and like the number of consultations received, this figure is a nearly two hundred percent increase when compared with the 6,800 consultations processed in Fiscal Year 2009. Seven departments - USDA, Commerce, DOE, HHS, DOJ, Labor, and VA - helped reduce their

consultation backlog by processing more consultations than they received. State had the most consultations pending as of the end of Fiscal Year 2010, by a large margin, with 15,279, followed by DOD with 1,028, and DOJ with 244.

Among agencies, ten reported having consultations pending at the end of Fiscal Year 2010. Of those, however, only two - CIA with 260, and EPA with 27 - had more than ten consultations pending at the end of the fiscal year.

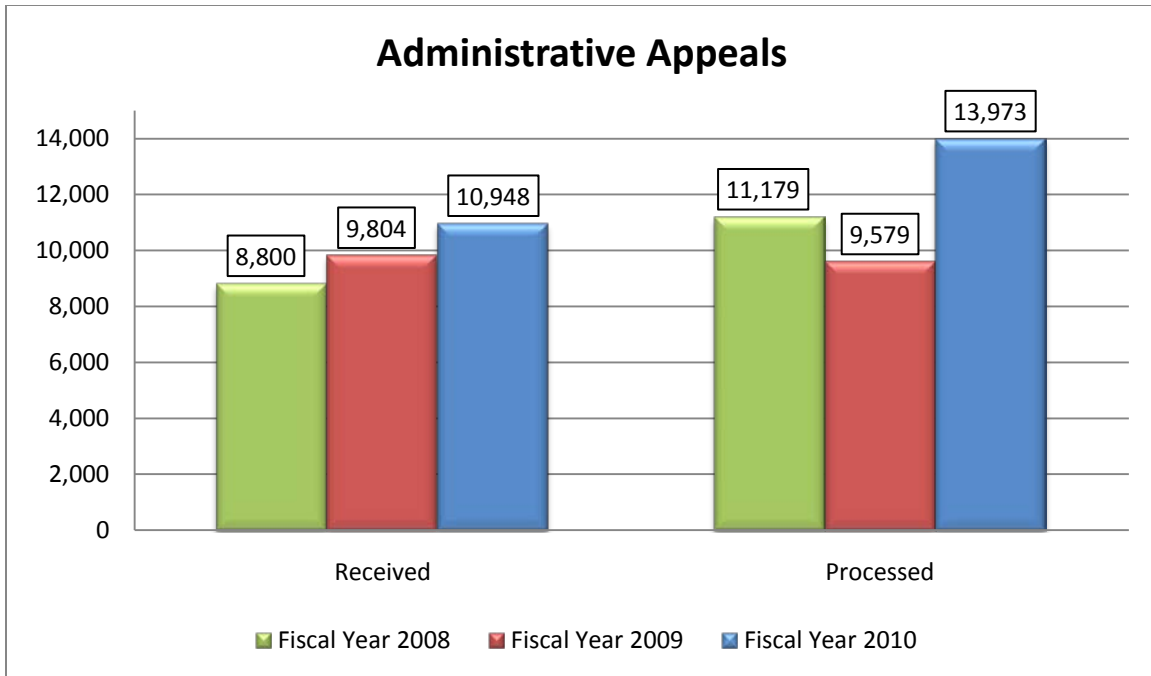
ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Number of Administrative Appeals Received and Processed

Across federal departments and agencies, in Fiscal Year 2010 the government received 10,948 administrative appeals from denials of access. This figure represents an increase of over eleven percent in appeals received when compared with the figure from Fiscal Year 2009, which was 9,804.

Among all federal departments, DOJ continued to receive the largest number of appeals, having received 3,351 appeals during Fiscal Year 2010. DHS followed with the second highest number of appeals received with 2,740, and DOD received the third highest with 1,107. These departments received the most appeals in Fiscal Year 2009 as well, but each received more appeals in this Fiscal Year compared to the last.

When looking at the numbers of appeals received by federal agencies, EEOC once again received the most appeals in Fiscal Year 2010 with 313. CIA received the second highest number of appeals at a federal agency with 224, and EPA received 204 appeals for the third highest number. By contrast, twenty-six agencies reported receiving no appeals in Fiscal Year 2010, and another twenty-eight received one and five appeals. This continues the trend from Fiscal Year 2009 with over half of agencies subject to the FOIA received no more than five administrative appeals of initial FOIA denials during the fiscal year. Only six agencies received more than a hundred appeals during the Fiscal Year 2010.



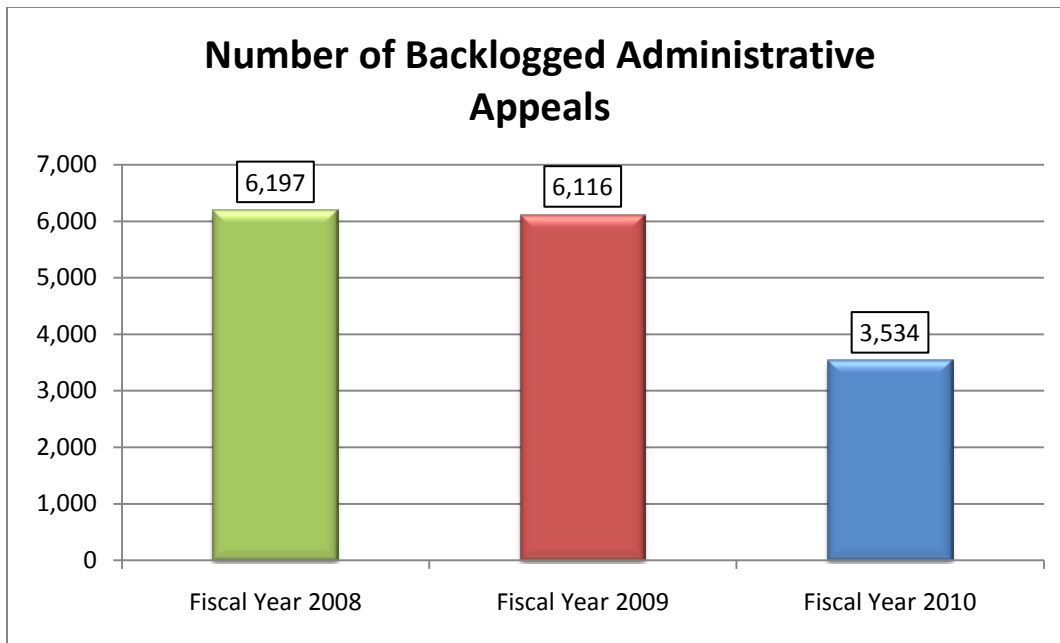
Federal departments and agencies combined to process 13,973 administrative appeals in Fiscal Year 2010, which is significantly more than the number received in the fiscal year. This represents nearly a forty-six percent increase in the processing of appeals when compared to the total from Fiscal Year 2009 of 9,579 appeals.

At federal departments, DHS processed 5,325 appeals in Fiscal Year 2010. This represents nearly forty percent of the total number of appeals processed across the government. DOJ had the second highest number of appeals processed with 3,413, representing nearly twenty-five percent of all appeals processed. Finally, DOD processed the third highest number of appeals with 1,023.

Among federal agencies, EEOC processed the most administrative appeals, processing 302. EPA reported the second highest total with 215, and SEC was the agency with the third highest total of appeals processed with 199.

Backlog Reduction for Administrative Appeals

For the third year, the overall backlog of administrative appeals declined. The number of reported backlogged administrative appeals for Fiscal Year 2010 was 3,534. This represents significant reduction in the appeals backlog, an over forty-two percent decrease, when compared with the reported number from Fiscal Year 2009 of 6,116.



Of the federal departments, all reported having some backlog of administrative appeals. The departments with the lowest backlog reported are: DOE (3), HUD (11), and Education (20). DOD reported the highest number of backlogged administrative appeals with 657. DHS reported the second highest number with 601 backlogged administrative appeals. However, this number is a decrease of over two thousand appeals compared with the number DHS reported for Fiscal Year 2009, which was 2,747. Additionally, of the overall government decrease in backlogged administrative appeals, 2,582, the backlog reduction at DHS alone represents eighty-three percent of the total reduction.

Just like with the numbers of backlogged requests at federal agencies, the number of backlogged administrative appeals reported at federal agencies is vastly smaller than what was reported at federal departments. Overall, sixty-two agencies reported that they had no appeals backlog, which is the exact same number of agencies as in Fiscal Year 2009. An additional eighteen agencies reported that they had between one and twenty administrative appeals in their backlog, which is up from fourteen agencies that reported this in the previous fiscal year. Only two agencies reported that they had more than twenty backlogged administrative appeals. The CIA reported 220 backlogged administrative appeals and EPA reported 77.

Processing Time for Administrative Appeals

As to the time taken to adjudicate administrative appeals, one department, DOE, and twenty-nine agencies, of the fifty-seven agencies that processed administrative appeals, reported processing those appeals within a median number of twenty days or fewer. The remaining departments that reported data on the median number of days to process administrative appeals reported medians ranging from 55 days at DOJ and Treasury, to 664 days at State. For agencies that reported data on the median number of days to process

administrative appeals, the reported medians ranged from 4 days at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, to 322 days at the FCC.

The average processing time for appeals across the entire government was 61.46 days. No department reported that their average processing time for appeals was twenty days or fewer. The lowest average processing time for administrative appeals at departments was reported by DOE at 30 days. The highest average processing time for administrative appeals at departments was reported by Interior at 845 days. Of agencies that reported processing administrative appeals, twenty-six reported that their average processing time for appeals was twenty days or fewer. The highest average processing time for administrative appeals at agencies was reported by the FCC at 389 days.

STAFFING LEVELS

Nearly 4,030 “full time FOIA staff” were devoted to the administration of the FOIA throughout the federal government during Fiscal Year 2010. That figure includes full time FOIA employees plus the cumulated percentages of time expended by personnel who work on FOIA as part of their duties. This figure represents a small increase from Fiscal Year 2009, when the reported number was approximately 4,000.

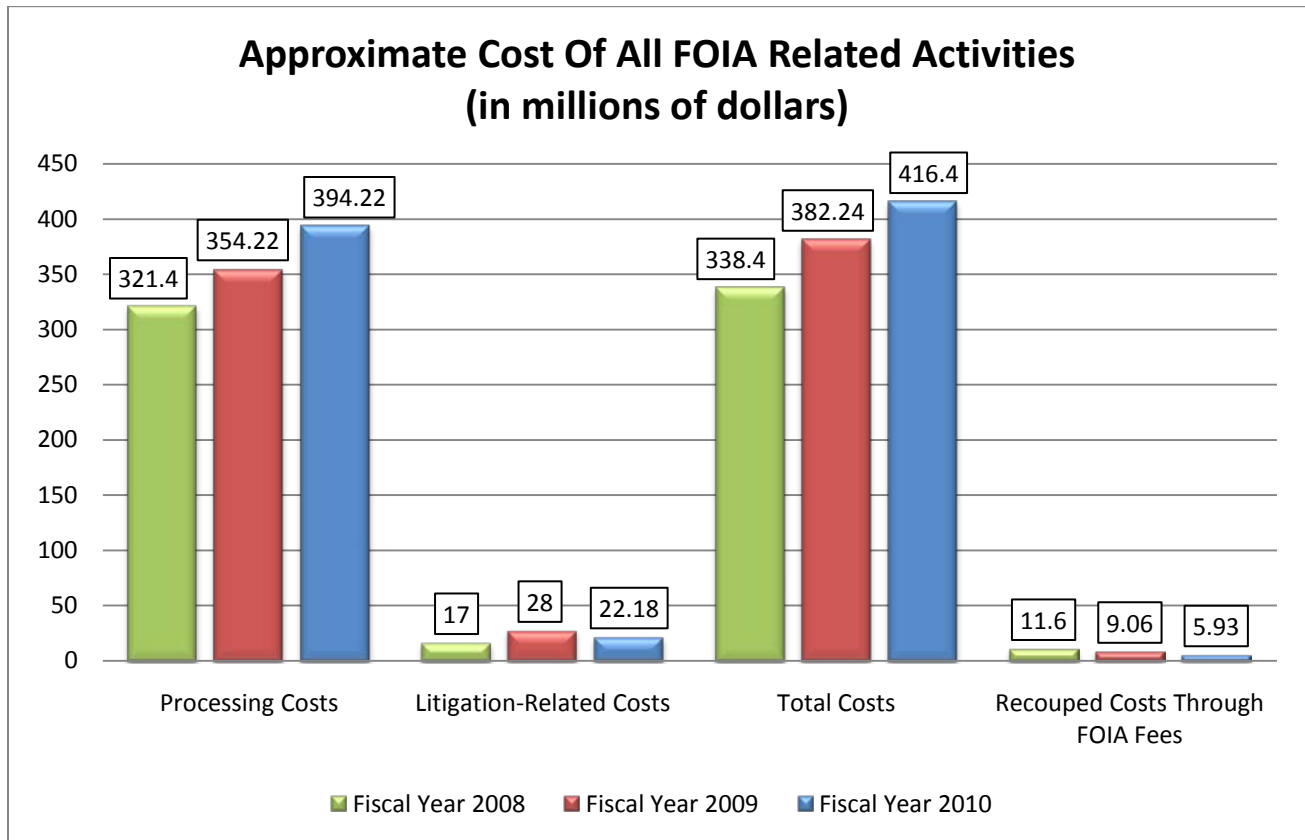
Among departments, DOD reported the greatest number of full time FOIA staff, reporting just over 798. This is a decrease of seventy-two staff members when compared with the figure that DOD reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2009. DOJ reported the second-highest number of FOIA staff with just over 514, which is an increase of eighty-nine staff members than were reported at the end of the previous fiscal year. The department with the third highest number of FOIA Staff was DHS, with just over 435 staff members, which is an increase of fifty-five when compared with Fiscal Year 2009. The departments who reported the fewest full time FOIA staff were Education with just under twenty-six, followed by Commerce with just over forty-two, and HUD with approximately fifty-eight.

Among agencies, sixty-one reported having the equivalent of five or fewer full time FOIA staff during the fiscal year. The agencies reporting the greatest numbers of full time FOIA staff were EPA, with just over 125, SSA with approximately 92, CIA with approximately 52, SEC with approximately 42, and EEOC with just under 38 full time FOIA staff.

COSTS

In Fiscal Year 2010, the total cost of all FOIA-related activities across all federal departments and agencies, as reported in their Annual FOIA Reports, was an estimated \$416,404,870.90. This figure represents almost a nine-percent increase, or just over thirty-four million dollars, from the figure reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2009. Approximately \$22,182,736.75 of these costs were reported as having been spent on litigation-related

activities. Of the total costs, \$5,935,857, or just over one percent, was reported to have been recouped by the government through the collection of FOIA fees.



The department with the highest total costs was DOD, which spent nearly ninety-two million dollars on FOIA-related activities during Fiscal Year 2010. DOJ and DHS were the departments reporting the second and third highest costs, reporting nearly sixty million dollars, and thirty-nine million dollars respectively. The departments reporting the least amount of spending on FOIA-related activities were HUD and Education, reporting over 1.9 million and 2.4 million respectively.

Among federal agencies, eighteen reported spending over one million dollars on FOIA-related activities during the fiscal year. EPA led this group, reporting expenditures of nearly twenty-one million dollars during the course of the year. The other agencies that spent more than one million dollars were CIA, which spent 11.8 million, SEC with over 6.4 million, SSA with just over 6.1 million, USPS with over 3.4 million, and the Federal Reserve with over 3.1 million. Another eight agencies – NARA, FDIC, GSA, FCC, NASA, OPM, EEOC and CPSC – each spent over two million, and four agencies – SBA, NRC, NTSB, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation – each spent over one million. At the other end of the spectrum, 23 agencies reported total FOIA-related costs of less than \$25,000 during the year.

CONCLUSION

The introduction of [FOIA.Gov](#) has allowed OIP to more efficiently collect, process, and present a wealth of information on the administration of the FOIA that is contained within agency Annual FOIA Reports.

OIP has highlighted here a variety of key data and statistics to present an overall summary of government FOIA activity. The data that OIP used to create this summary is available on [FOIA.Gov](#), or is located in past Annual FOIA Report Summaries available on the [Reports](#) page of [OIP's website](#). Additionally, links to each agency's Annual FOIA Report can also be found on the same [Reports](#) page.