

How FOIA Requesters Fared by Department/Agency, 2003

Department/ Agency	Requests				Decision Made				
	Received	Processed	Yearend Backlog	Percent	Granted in Full	Partial Grant	Percent Granted	Denied	Other
Agriculture	68,049	68,163	1,778	3%	61,092	2,447	93%	1,799	2,825
Commerce	1,975	1,981	292	15%	875	327	61%	216	563
Defense	74,399	73,814	13,128	18%	37,802	10,276	65%	2,173	23,563
Education	1,856	1,840	214	12%	1,137	325	79%	49	329
Energy	2,357	2,371	1013	43%	1,400	342	73%	44	585
Homeland Sec.	161,117	160,902	28,958	18%	63,403	52,726	72%	1,007	43,766
HUD	4,027	2,788	1,910	69%	1,613	486	75%	80	609
Interior	5,243	4,679	1,471	31%	2,117	995	67%	191	1376
Justice	53,904	54,583	7,574	14%	17,712	8,144	47%	1,924	26,803
Labor	20,962	21,185	586	3%	7,282	7,661	71%	1,435	4,807
State	3,352	5,773	3,008	52%	1086	1,581	46%	220	2,886
Transportation	10,649	10,527	2,542	24%	4,276	1,965	59%	445	3,841
Treasury	60,065	59,814	5,772	10%	27,094	3,502	51%	662	28,526
AID	324	240	261	109%	95	55	63%	15	75
CIA	3,136	3,252	1,431	44%	422	1,178	49%	537	1,115
CPSC	8,325	8,391	100	1%	7725	396	97%	44	226
EEOC	17,485	17,550	1,636	9%	1,001	13,347	82%	1,333	1,869
EPA	12,787	14,454	2,601	18%	7,925	564	59%	115	5,849
GSA	1,372	1,363	150	11%	905	180	80%	48	230
NARA	5,556	4,830	5,235	108%	1,075	92	24%	3	3,660
NASA	1,938	1878	202	11%	793	485	68%	35	565
NLRB	5,306	5256	256	5%	4016	478	86%	176	586
NRC	450	434	71	16%	179	125	70%	23	107
NSF	237	231	8	3%	43	151	84%	5	32
SEC	5,800	3,481	3,140	90%	765	324	31%	467	1,925
SBA	1,899	1,908	56	3%	1276	223	79%	108	301
Subtotal	532,570	531,688	83,393	16%	253,109	108,375	68%	13,154	157,019
HHS	146,257	144,143	21,265	15%	133,487	636	93%	1,500	8,520
OPM	10,168	10,101	590	6%	7,427	1881	92%	33	760
SSA	705,280	704,941	2,731	0.4%	699,390	704	99%	1587	3,260
VA	1,854,166	1,851,756	45,076	2%	1,812,795	8,961	98%	5,014	24,986
Subtotal	2,715,871	2,710,941	69,662	3%	2,653,099	12,182	98%	8,134	37,526

KEY: Above Average

HHS, OPM, SSA and the VA are shown separately because the bulk of their requests come under both FOIA and the Privacy Act from individuals seeking personal records. Most do not require discretionary decisions of the agency on whether to release the documents and are automatically and quickly granted. **Other** refers to the number of requests rejected for reasons unrelated to any exemption, such as failure to front processing fees, no records found, or a non-specific request.

Days Requesters Waited for Agency Response, 2003

Department/ Agency	Type of Request, Processing Time						
	Simple Request	Median Days	Complex Request	Median Days	Expedited Requests	Number Granted	Median Days
Agriculture	62,073	1 \ 91	5,250	4 \ 467	1526	840	5 \ 30
Commerce	1,486	13	495	30	0	0	0
Defense	62,180	20.5	10,817	64	1358	817	1
Education	1,440	2 \ 90	324	9 \ 165	76	76	3 \ 10
Energy	1,597	4 \ 985	770	13 \ 2143	8	4	1 \ 5
Homeland Sec.	119,550	15 \ 155	41,165	6 \ 240	194	187	10 \ 65
HUD	2,452	11 \ 62	186	95	NR	150	4 \ 22
Interior	4,655	13 \ 177	0	0	79	24	1 \ 64
Justice	47,435	1 \ 71	7,023	8 \ 471	290	123	1 \ 80
Labor	15,873	2 \ 25	4,906	15 \ 40	594	406	5 \ 20
State	1,268	8	4,493	671	177	13	196
Transportation	6,192	14	4,232	52	400	103	8
Treasury	424	3 \ 32	59,323	6 \ 176	77	67	1 \ 8
AID	238	42	0	0	2	2	55
CIA	493	8	2,759	60	0	0	0
CPSC	6,819	6	1,572	20	0	0	0
EEOC	17,258	20	0	0	NR	292	3
EPA	14,424	16 \ 120	26	9 \ 182	40	4	11 \ 49
GSA	—	0	1363	14	0	0	0
NARA	4,579	31	251	312	0	0	0
NASA	1,125	6 \ 135	702	8 \ 50	51	51	12 \ 37
NLRB	5,256	9	0	0	0	0	0
NRC	390	13	34	35	23	10	15
NSF	231	14	0	0	1	0	0
SEC	3,404	152	66	24	11	11	14
SBA	1,908	2	0	0	0	0	0
HHS	34,950	NR	109,177	NR	66	16	0
OPM	10,101	9	0	0	0	0	0
SSA	24,047	11 \ 19	827	62	9	0	0
SSA Outsourced	678,849	NR	0	0	0	0	0
SSA Fast Track	1,218	23	0	0	0	0	0
VA	—	0	1,833,581	1 \ 42	27,552	18,175	1 \ 18

KEY: Missed Response Deadline NR=Not Reported

Agencies are required by the FOIA to respond to all requests within 20 working days. Those agencies that reported a median response time beyond the 20 days are highlighted. Some agencies report only by component unit, providing no agency total. In those instances, the "Median Day" figures shown here reflect the lowest and highest processing times reported. **The Social Security Administration** said it outsourced most of its simple FOIA requests and could not report processing time on those requests. The agency reported median times of times of 11 to 19 days for the 24,047 requests it did handle.

The Results of FOIA Appeals by Agency, 2003

Department/ Agency	Appeals Received	Appeals Processed	Backlog	Percent Backlog	Full Grant	Partial Grant	Percent Granted	Denial Upheld	Other*
Agriculture	207	177	30	17%	44	49	53%	29	55
Commerce	72	74	—	0%	7	13	27%	25	29
Defense	616	749	—	0%	41	104	19%	289	315
Education	24	12	12	100%	0	0	0%	11	1
Energy	40	47	—	0%	1	1	4%	8	37
Homeland Sec.	1,211	414	797	193%	7	33	10%	137	237
HUD	63	48	15	31%	0	7	15%	25	16
Interior	251	152	99	65%	62	12	49%	10	68
Justice	3,574	4,357	—	0%	89	183	6%	1764	2321
Labor	249	225	24	11%	11	100	49%	46	68
State	273	160	113	71%	6	70	48%	61	23
Transportation	77	127	—	0%	17	23	31%	39	48
Treasury	683	751	—	0%	12	37	7%	576	126
AID	12	3	9	300%	0	3	100%	0	0
CIA	211	233	—	0%	0	38	16%	139	46
CPSC	15	15	—	0%	2	0	13%	12	1
EEOC	352	352	—	0%	7	87	27%	176	82
EPA	137	152	—	0%	8	31	26%	42	71
GSA	15	14	1	7%	2	6	57%	3	3
NARA	11	11	—	0%	2	2	36%	5	2
NASA	20	20	—	0%	2	4	30%	14	0
NLRB	25	25	—	0%	3	7	40%	14	4
NRC	15	13	2	15%	2	1	23%	6	4
NSF	2	2	—	0%	0	0	0%	2	0
SEC	105	73	32	44%	6	10	22%	29	28
SBA	22	23	—	0%	4	5	39%	5	9
Subtotal	8,282	8,229	53	1%	335	826	14%	3,467	3,594
HHS	178	187	—	0%	18	20	20%	52	97
OPM	34	34	—	0%	4	4	24%	17	9
SSA	160	191	—	0%	10	18	15%	55	108
VA	93	77	16	21%	7	4	14%	47	19
Subtotal	465	489	16	0%	39	46	17%	171	233
Total	8,747	8,718	69	0%	374	872	14%	3,638	3,827

KEY: Above Average

*Other: Agencies list various other reasons for "non-disclosure" including "request withdrawn", "referral", "fee-related", "not reasonably described", "not a proper FOIA request", "duplicate request", and "available from another source".

The Use of Exemptions in Denying FOIA Requests, 2003

Department/ Agency	Total Cited		Exemption Cited													
	2002	2003	1	2	3	4	5	6	7a	7b	7c	7d	7e	7f	8	9
Agriculture	3,546	3,759	2	95	252	463	400	2,052	160	7	266	32	20	10	0	0
Commerce	650	632	8	14	107	103	149	212	5	0	31	2	1	0	0	0
Defense	19,625	19,296	1,477	1,689	1,618	1,583	1,432	6,345	371	15	4,339	327	80	19	0	1
Education	510	529	0	13	—	100	55	195	52	—	104	3	7	0	0	0
Energy	378	481	19	44	40	78	65	203	4	—	24	1	0	3	0	0
Homeland Sec.	*	96,249	44	4,192	331	358	12,360	35,516	7,293	29	26,386	1,222	8,470	48	0	0
HUD	798	639	0	18	19	126	110	297	27	—	38	2	2	0	0	0
Interior	1,065	1,545	1	43	38	188	366	576	83	21	154	43	14	16	0	2
Justice	419,759	22,322	515	3,065	1,146	269	1,745	2,864	657	25	7,153	2,461	898	1,524	0	0
Labor	21,642	23,484	0	595	23	3,942	4,967	2,391	1,433	—	5,688	3,573	872	0	0	0
State	1,386	2,419	730	125	260	104	409	544	59	3	108	35	30	12	0	0
Transportation	3,204	2,864	1	52	141	245	403	1,268	165	8	462	110	8	1	0	0
Treasury	11,121	8,190	6	177	2,917	418	637	856	510	4	1,110	236	1,251	10	58	0
AID	69	101	0	1	6	39	20	33	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
CIA	1,776	2,022	752	30	1,063	9	34	88	2	1	14	14	16	1	0	0
CPSC	1,048	823	0	—	352	122	174	4	52	0	0	2	117	0	0	0
EEOC	16,589	18,927	0	1	2,586	8	12,898	1,126	554	0	1,606	104	44	0	0	0
EPA	1,064	1,334	1	46	46	336	397	178	182	8	81	30	22	5	0	2
GSA	158	227	0	24	33	79	33	38	9	1	3	0	2	5	0	0
NARA	100	183	45	7	44	8	17	47	0	0	8	2	2	3	0	0
NASA	629	542	1	30	40	351	41	33	10	0	16	11	9	0	0	0
NLRB	1,416	1,459	0	58	—	13	205	268	331	0	306	261	17	0	0	0
NRC	189	256	4	25	12	25	66	37	25	0	55	2	5	0	0	0
NSF	231	220	0	1	9	50	6	142	1	0	9	2	0	0	0	0
SEC	775	569	0	38	2	57	60	48	294	0	35	0	14	0	21	0
SBA	391	499	0	3	3	219	98	156	5	1	10	1	1	1	1	0
Subtotal	509,119	209,571	3,607	10,386	11,088	9,293	37,147	55,517	12,282	123	48,008	8,476	11,902	1,658	80	5
HHS	2,511	2,467	0	37	37	301	178	1,764	78	1	52	17	2	0	0	0
OPM	2,478	4,662	0	18	309	8	22	2,162	1	0	2,127	6	9	0	0	0
SSA	2,907	2,508	0	176	103	13	207	1,977	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0
VA	7,413	7,743	4	166	3,609	113	482	3,193	31	4	132	2	7	0	0	0
Subtotal	15,309	17,380	4	397	4,058	435	889	9,096	110	5	2,343	25	18	0	0	0

KEY: Increase from 2002

*Department of Homeland Security was established in 2003.

Other Reasons for Nondisclosure, 2003

Department/ Agency	Total Cited		No Records	Referrals	Request Withdrawn	Fee Related Reason	Not Reasonably Described	Not a Proper Request	Not an Agency Record	Duplicate Request	All Other
	2002	2003									
Agriculture	2,693	2,825	802	586	312	156	136	206	117	87	423
Commerce	663	563	199	90	47	77	15	16	19	21	79
Defense	22,953	23,563	5,889	8,804	2,457	786	823	1,307	586	1,055	1,856
Education	250	329	180	75	42	1	5	2	4	5	15
Energy	765	585	170	55	192	25	29	35	19	38	22
Homeland Sec.*	*	43,766	13,875	1,385	1,970	1,026	9,556	614	1,615	9,862	3,863
HUD	1,820	609	155	208	154	33	4	21	10	24	0
Interior	1,209	1,376	454	200	227	170	124	77	73	26	25
Justice	60,834	26,803	11,916	2,513	1,275	1,517	1,642	4,604	439	1,194	1,703
Labor	4,387	4,807	2,902	1,117	245	81	81	62	174	109	36
State	2,810	2,886	1,088	588	62	0	0	32	0	36	1,080
Transportation	7,847	3,841	2,217	608	666	111	15	107	37	49	31
Treasury	21,216	28,556	13,647	2,608	401	42	44	8,963	30	14	2,807
AID	85	75	25	1	26	11	6	0	1	0	5
CIA	1,139	1,115	368	102	5	0	0	0	0	0	640
CPSC	317	226	141	20	27	10	15	0	0	13	0
EEOC	1,772	1,869	716	342	133	24	21	27	58	161	387
EPA	9,488	5,849	3,907	28	1,688	23	16	6	166	15	0
GSA	265	230	45	46	56	28	15	14	19	7	0
NARA	631	3,660	3,269	86	39	—	93	46	31	11	85
NASA	400	565	143	230	82	3	11	24	14	33	25
NLRB	659	586	211	114	139	56	31	0	13	0	22
NRC	131	107	45	2	32	16	4	2	2	0	4
NSF	32	32	22	0	2	3	3	0	0	0	2
SEC	1,739	1,925	1,288	97	75	197	38	17	8	37	168
SBA	308	301	145	68	19	15	8	6	33	7	0
Subtotal	144,413	157,049	63,819	19,973	10,373	4,411	12,735	16,188	3,468	12,804	13,278
HHS	9,833	8,520	2,950	394	2,622	707	67	1,060	14	138	568
OPM	533	760	176	40	3	6	0	2	13	4	516
SSA	1,205	3,280	253	0	118	86	80	0	0	2,217	526
VA	19,524	24,986	9,201	5,256	2,686	590	699	2,194	633	2,516	1,211
Subtotal	31,095	37,546	12,580	5,690	5,429	1,389	846	3,256	660	4,875	2,821

KEY: Increase from 2002

*Department of Homeland Security was established in 2003.

FOIA Processing Costs, Workforce, Efficiency, Litigation Costs, 2003

Department/Agency	Processing Costs	Requests Processed	Cost per Request	FTEs	Requests per FTE	Litigation Costs
Agriculture	\$8,833,920	68,163	\$130	608	112	\$286,107
Commerce	\$1,253,641	1,981	\$633	18	111	\$283,362
Defense	\$42,536,165	73,814	\$576	704	105	\$354,461
Education	\$498,339	1,840	\$271	7	267	0
Energy	\$3,086,455	2,371	\$1,302	75	32	\$259,277
Homeland Sec.	\$21,514,060	160,902	\$134	410	392	\$410,791
HUD	\$2,322,395	2,788	\$833	41	68	\$76,529
Interior	\$7,406,231	4,679	\$1,583	122	38	\$266,799
Justice	\$64,039,375	54,583	\$1,173	716	76	\$4,098,259
Labor	\$15,242,160	21,185	\$719	199	107	\$160,500
State	\$12,107,000	5,773	\$2,097	148	39	\$123,156
Transportation	\$6,413,295	10,527	\$609	55	191	\$101,420
Treasury	\$12,586,700	59,814	\$210	144	416	\$165,132
AID	\$456,200	240	\$1,901	6	40	\$14,108
CIA	\$7,600,000	3,252	\$2,337	272	12	\$650,000
CPSC	\$1,513,924	8,391	\$180	15	552	0
EEOC	\$1,910,866	17,550	\$109	41	424	0
EPA	\$8,773,710	14,454	\$607	155	93	\$258,418
GSA	\$825,000	1,363	\$605	18	76	\$34,000
NARA	\$1,354,911	4,830	\$281	26	186	0
NASA	\$993,669	1,878	\$529	19	98	\$104,336
NLRB	\$824,963	5,256	\$157	11	484	\$21,113
NRC	\$1,275,998	434	\$2,940	10	43	0
NSF	\$172,137	231	\$745	1	165	0
SEC	\$12,237,000	3,481	\$3,515	62	57	\$25,000
SBA	\$499,774	1,908	\$262	20	98	0
Subtotal	\$236,277,888	531,688	\$444	3,903	136	\$7,692,768
HHS	\$15,263,798	144,143	\$106	259	556	\$91,233
OPM	\$728,223	10,101	\$72	8	1,226	0
SSA	\$13,542,739	704,941	\$19	742	950	\$36,508
VA	\$39,515,239	1,851,756	\$21	167	11,088	\$53,051
Subtotal	\$69,049,999	2,710,941	\$25	1177	2304	\$380,792
Total	\$305,327,887	3,242,629	\$94	5,079	638	\$8,073,560

KEY: Above Average

FOIA Fees Collected, 2003

Department/Agency	Fees	Percent of Total Costs
Agriculture	\$140,461	1.5%
Commerce	\$42,758	2.8%
Defense	\$518,815	1.2%
Education	\$15,538	4%
Energy	\$18,906	0.006%
Homeland Sec.	\$270,384	1 %
HUD	\$26,588	1.1%
Interior	\$109,749	1 %
Justice	\$125,915	0.2%
Labor	\$225,232	1.5%
State	\$16,443	0.13%
Transportation	\$215,818	0.03%
Treasury	\$422,773	3.3%
AID	\$4,400	0.01%
CIA	\$1,250	1%
CPSC	\$2,511	0.2%
EEOC	\$181,225	9.5%
EPA	\$324,203	3.6%
GSA	\$23,521	6%
NARA	\$2,482	0.20%
NASA	\$24,713	2.3%
NLRB	\$86,381	9.8%
NRC	\$28,140	0.02%
NSF	\$974	0.06%
SEC	\$306,098	2.5%
SBA	\$11,847	2.4%
Subtotal	\$3,147,123	1.3%
HHS	\$708,885	5%
OPM	\$10,396	1.4%
SSA	\$2,069,585	1.4%
VA	\$555,981	0.15%
Subtotal	\$3,344,847	4.8%