



SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

2026 CHIEF FOIA OFFICER REPORT

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Social Security Administration

SECTION I: FOIA LEADERSHIP AND APPLYING THE PRESUMPTION OF OPENESS

The guiding principle underlying the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) 2022 FOIA Guidelines is the presumption of openness. The Guidelines also highlight the importance of agency leadership in ensuring effective FOIA administration. Please answer the following questions about FOIA leadership at your agency and describe the steps your agency has taken to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied to all decisions involving the FOIA.

A. Leadership Support for FOIA

1. The FOIA requires each agency to designate a Chief FOIA Officer who is a senior official at least at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(j)(1) (2018). Is your agency’s Chief FOIA Officer at or above this level?

Yes

2. Please provide the name and title of your agency’s Chief FOIA Officer.

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Chief of Law, Policy & Legislative Affairs
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3. What Steps has your agency taken to incorporate FOIA into its core mission? For example, has your agency incorporated FOIA milestones into its strategic plan?

None

B. Presumption of Openness

4. DOJ’s 2022 FOIA Guidelines provides that “agencies should confirm in response letters to FOIA requesters that they have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying FOIA exemptions.” Does your agency provide such confirmation in its response letters?

Yes

5. In some circumstances, agencies may respond to a requester that it can neither confirm or deny the existence of requested records if acknowledging the existence of records would harm an interest protected by a FOIA exemption. This is commonly referred to as a Glomar response. If your agency tracks Glomar responses, please provide:

- The number of times your agency issued a full or partial Glomar response during FY 2025 (separate full and partial if possible)

1 time

- The number of times a Glomar response was issued by exemption during FY 2025 (e.g., Exemption 7(C) – 20 times, Exemption 1 – 5 times)

Exemption b(6) and 7(C) – 1 time

6. Optional – If there are any other initiatives undertaken by your agency to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied, please describe them here.

The FOIA Division Director meets with each FOIA analyst every other week to discuss FOIA cases and ensure proper searches are completed for the requests.

SECTION II: ENSURING FAIR AND EFFECTIVE FOIA ADMINISTRATION

DOJ’s 2022 FOIA Guidelines provide that “[e]nsuring fair and effective FOIA administration requires ... proper training, and a full understanding of FOIA obligations by the entire agency workforce.” The Guidelines reinforce longstanding guidance to “work with FOIA requesters in a spirit of cooperation.” The Attorney General also “urges[s] agency Chief FOIA Officers to undertake comprehensive review of all aspects of their agency’s FOIA administration” as part of ensuring fair and effective FOIA administration.

A. FOIA Training

1. The FOIA directs agency Chief FOIA Officers to ensure that FOIA training is offered to agency personnel. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(j)(2)(F). Please describe the efforts your agency has undertaken to ensure proper FOIA training is made available and used by agency personnel.

Under the direction of SSA’s Chief FOIA Officer, the FOIA team offered numerous trainings to agency personnel throughout Fiscal Year 2025. Internal trainings included the following:

- **Presentations to agency components concerning FOIA exemptions and the updated FOIA regulations;**

- **Presentations to agency personnel (including the agency’s FOIA coordinators) concerning proper disclosure of agency records;**
- **Examinations and review of new case law;**
- **Trainings related to communications with the FOIA requesters; and**
- **Trainings related to timely dispositions of Fee Waiver and Expedited Processing requests.**

2. Did your FOIA professionals or other personnel at your agency with FOIA responsibilities attend substantive FOIA training during the reporting period, such as that provided by the Department of Justice?

Yes

3. If yes, please provide a brief description of the type of training attended or conducted and the topics covered.

- **Monthly FOIA Staff Meetings – Our monthly meetings included discussions concerning FOIA appeals, exemptions, recent Federal court cases, partial disclosures, FOIA fees and fee waivers, requirements for perfected requests under the FOIA, communications with requesters, and Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) inquiries.**
- **Updated FOIA Regulations Training – Training provided to staff to brief the updated FOIA regulations, given the reorganization of the regulations at 20 C.F.R. Part 402.**
- **Graduate School USA’s “Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts” Training -- The training was an introduction into the FOIA and Privacy Act, with attention on FOIA exemptions and case processing.**

4. Please provide an estimate of the percentage of your FOIA professionals and staff with FOIA responsibilities who attended substantive FOIA training during this reporting period.

100% of our FOIA professionals attended substantive training during this reporting period.

5. OIP has directed agencies to “take steps to ensure that all of their FOIA professionals attend substantive FOIA training at least once throughout year.” If your response to the previous question is that less than 80% of your FOIA professionals attended training, please explain your agency’s plan to ensure that all FOIA professionals receive or attend substantive FOIA training during the next reporting year.

N/A

6. Describe any efforts your agency has undertaken to inform non-FOIA professionals of their obligations under the FOIA. In particular, please describe how often and in what formats your agency provides FOIA training or briefings to non-FOIA staff, and if senior

leaders at your agency received a briefing on your agency's FOIA resources, obligations and expectations during the FOIA process.

- **Provided FOIA processing guidance to the non-FOIA professionals, i.e., component FOIA coordinators;**
- **Met with agency components, as needed, to brief FOIA processing to further their understanding of their FOIA obligations.**

B. Outreach

7. As part of the standard request process, do your FOIA professionals proactively contact requesters concerning complex or voluminous requests in an effort to clarify or narrow the scope of the request so requesters can receive responses more quickly? Please describe any such outreach or dialogue, and if applicable, any specific examples.

Yes, SSA FOIA professionals regularly reach out via email or phone to requesters to clarify and narrow complex or voluminous requests. For example, when we receive requests for email communications of agency employees, we contact the requesters to confirm search parameters, i.e., applicable records' custodians, the time frame, and any keywords to be used in the search.

8. Outside of the standard request process or routine FOIA Liaison or FOIA Requester Service Center interactions, did your FOIA professionals engage in any outreach or dialogue with the requester community or open government groups regarding your administration of the FOIA? For example, did you proactively contact frequent requesters, host FOIA-related conference calls with open government groups, or provide FOIA training to members of the public? Please describe any such outreach or dialogue, and, if applicable, any specific examples of how this dialogue has led to improvements in your agency's FOIA administration.

Yes. We regularly engage in outreach through our FOIA Public Liaison, who responded to questions from the public about the agency and our FOIA process.

The public also had the opportunity to comment on our FOIA Regulations (89 FR 102704, published December 18, 2024), which reorganized and clarified our FOIA processes for the public. We engaged in dialogue with the requester community by responding to the public comments we received. For example, one of the commentors requested that we revise the scope of proposed § 402.30 (requirements of a FOIA request) as concerns emailed communications, asking that we remove the requirement to provide detailed information regarding the individual(s) from whom the records are sought. In response, we explained how the agency processes FOIA requests – centrally in OPD -- therefore, we need the requester to clearly state and reasonably describe what SSA records are being requested so that we can properly determine the scope of the FOIA request.

Another comment we received concerned our closure of requests when we do not receive a response from the requester within 10 business day from our request for clarification. In response to the comment, we explained that we make reasonable efforts to secure clarification from requesters before we administratively close a request. We further advised that we clarified our regulation, stating that if we do not receive a response to our clarification attempts within 30 calendar days from the date of our first contact to the requester, we will close the FOIA request.

9. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 requires additional notification to requesters about the services provided by the agency's FOIA Public Liaison. Please provide an estimate of the number of times requesters sought assistance from your agency's FOIA Public Liaison during Fiscal Year 2025 (please provide a total number or an estimate of the number for the agency overall).

In Fiscal Year 2025, SSA received over 20,000 emails to our FOIA Public Liaison mailbox – compared to 11,592 emails in Fiscal Year 2024 – and about 1,350 calls to our FOIA Public Liaison voicemail line.

C. Other Initiatives

10. Has your agency evaluated the allocation of agency personnel resources needed to respond to current and anticipated FOIA demands? If so, please describe what changes your agency has or will implement.

No

11. How does your agency use data or processing metrics to ensure efficient management of your FOIA workload? For example, case management reports, staff processing statistics, etc. In addition, please specifically highlight any data analysis methods or technologies used.

We use various case management reports from FOIAXpress and Excel spreadsheets to monitor the number and complexity of cases assigned to each FOIA analyst.

12. Optional – If there are any other initiatives undertaken by your agency to ensure fair and effective FOIA administration, please describe them here.

SSA's updated FOIA regulations were published in the Federal Register on December 18, 2024. They became effective on January 17, 2025. Within our updated FOIA Regulations, we reorganized and clarified our FOIA processes for the public; thus, enhancing process transparency. This reorganization starts with our FOIA policies and procedures for processing FOIA requests and concludes with information on records available for public inspection. Our revisions streamline our FOIA Regulations at 20 CFR part 402 by creating new sections, consolidating sections based on content, and revising section headings to more clearly capture the information contained therein. In short, updated Regulations make our FOIA procedures easier for the public to understand and use.

SECTION III: PROACTIVE DISCLOSURES

DOJ's 2022 FOIA Guidelines emphasize that "proactive disclosure of information is ... fundamental to the faithful application of the FOIA." The Guidelines direct agencies to post "records online quickly and systematically in advance of any public request" and reiterate that agencies should post records "in the most useful, searchable, and open formats possible."

1. Please describe what steps your agency takes to identify, track, and post (a)(2) proactive disclosures

We have some documents that are automatically updated and posted to the agency's electronic FOIA Reading Room at certain times of the year. We also manually search FOIAXpress for released documents that may be of interest and should be included in the electronic Reading Room. In addition, FOIA professionals recommend documents that are good candidates for proactive disclosure to the agency's electronic Reading Room.

2. Does your agency post logs of its FOIA requests?

Yes

- If so, what information is contained in the logs?
 - the tracking number,
 - the type of request,
 - the request track,
 - received date,
 - closed date,
 - final disposition,
 - exemptions cited,
 - requester name,
 - requester organization,
 - requester category, and
 - request description (if the description contains personally identifiable information (PII) it is marked "<<Restricted>>").
- Are they posted in CSV format? If not, what format are they posted in?

No, they are posted in Microsoft Excel format.
- Please provide a link to the page where any FOIA logs are posted. If applicable, please provide component links.

<https://www.ssa.gov/foia/annualreports.html>

3. Provide examples of any material (with links) that your agency has proactively disclosed during the past reporting year, including records that have been requested and released three or more times in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(2)(D).

In Fiscal Year 2025, the FOIA staff released 86 documents that are available in SSA’s electronic FOIA Reading Room, under the *Proactive Disclosures* heading located at <https://www.ssa.gov/foia/readingroom.html>. This is an increase in 60 documents from Fiscal Year 2024. These releases included, but were not limited to, hearings statistics, data on disability claim applications, and sanctioned representatives.

4. Please provide a link (or component links, if applicable) where your agency routinely posts its frequently requested records.

<https://www.ssa.gov/foia/readingroom.html>

5. Beyond posting new material, is your agency taking steps to make the posted information more useful to the public, especially to the community of individuals who regularly access your agency’s website? If yes, please provide examples of such improvements. In particular, please describe steps your agency is taking to post information in open and machine readable formats. If not taking steps to make posted information more useful, please explain why.

Yes. We clearly and concisely title the records posted to the Reading Room to promote easier searches and review of the records. We began an ongoing project in 2017 to update our FOIA website to make it more organized and user-friendly. We also reviewed the documents to verify if they were Section 508 compliant. Most of our documents are posted as searchable PDFs or Excel spreadsheets.

6. Does your proactive disclosure process or system involve any collaboration with agency staff outside the FOIA office, such as IT or data personnel? If so, describe the interaction.

Agency staff outside the FOIA office provide us with updated documents at certain intervals to post the most current information to the *Proactive Disclosures* page of the agency’s electronic Reading Room. From the electronic Reading Room, the public may also select links to pages maintained by agency components separate from the FOIA office, such as the public Program Operations Manual System (POMS) and information that has been released on [Data.gov](https://www.data.gov).

7. Optional - Please describe the best practices used to improve proactive disclosures and any challenges your agency faces in this area.

As stated above, various components provide records to the FOIA staff at specified times of the year to post to our electronic Reading Room. Our new FOIA case management software, FOIAXpress, enables us to run more efficient reports to determine if any records released in response to FOIA requests are appropriate for

posting to the Reading Room. FOIA analysts also identify records that would be appropriate for posting.

SECTION IV: STEPS TAKEN TO MAKE BETTER USE OF TECHNOLOGY

A key component of FOIA administration is using technology to make information available to the public and to gain efficiency in FOIA processing. DOJ's 2022 FOIA Guidelines emphasize the importance of making FOIA websites easily navigable and complying with the FOIA.gov interoperability requirements. Please answer the following questions to describe how your agency is using technology to improve its FOIA administration and the public's access to information.

1. Has your agency reviewed its FOIA-related technological capabilities to identify resources needed to respond to current and anticipated FOIA demands?

Yes.

2. Please briefly describe any new types of technology your agency began using during the reporting period to support your FOIA program.

We utilize FOIAXpress as our FOIA case management solution. FOIAXpress allows us to release records and responses electronically to requesters who create an account within the FOIAXpress Public Access Link (PAL), as well as provide responses via secure email allowing us to release FOIA responses faster than postal mail.

3. Does your agency currently use any technology to automate request intake, customer service, or record processing? For example, does your agency use artificial intelligence or other tools to conduct searches or make redactions? If so, please describe and, if possible, estimate how much time and financial resources are saved since implementing the technology.

The FOIAXpress solution enables SSA to communicate with program offices outside of the FOIA office within the solution, allowing program offices to upload responsive records within the solution to ensure proper case management. FOIAXpress also automatically issues acknowledgements to requesters who submitted requests from PAL and the National FOIA Portal.

SSA uses an e-Discovery solution to assist with the processing of voluminous records, particularly employee email records, to help narrow down the records for our review. The e-Discovery solution includes redaction tools that allow FOIA professionals to mass redact commonly redacted items, such as email addresses, Social Security numbers, and phone numbers. We do not have metrics of time or financial savings due to the use of our e-Discovery tool.

4. OIP issued guidance in 2017 encouraging agencies to regularly review their FOIA websites to ensure that they contain essential resources and are informative and user-friendly. Has your agency reviewed its FOIA website(s) during the reporting period to ensure it addresses the elements noted in the guidance?

Yes

5. Did all four of your agency's quarterly reports for Fiscal Year 2025 appear on FOIA.gov?

Yes

6. If your agency did not successfully post all quarterly reports on FOIA.gov, please explain why and provide your agency's plan for ensuring that such reporting is successful in Fiscal Year 2026.

N/A

7. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 requires all agencies to post the raw statistical data used to compile their Annual FOIA Reports. Please provide the link to this posting for your agency's Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report and, if available, for your agency's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report.

<https://www.ssa.gov/foia/annualreports.html>

8. In February 2019, DOJ and OMB issued joint Guidance establishing interoperability standards to receive requests from the National FOIA Portal on FOIA.gov. Are all components of your agency in compliance with the guidance?

Yes

9. Optional – Please describe the best practices used in greater utilizing technology and any challenges your agency faces in this area

Best Practices

We work with our Information Technology staff to improve the quality of keyword searches in our e-Discovery solution when reviewing records in response to requests for email communications. We communicate with requesters via our FOIA Public Liaison electronic mailbox and respond to voicemails we receive to our FOIA voicemail line. We leverage the functionality in FOIAXpress to communicate with requesters and release documents via secure emails from the solution. Collectively, these items allow us to process cases more efficiently.

Challenges

As an agency, we have limitations of funding affect our ability to procure artificial intelligence (A.I.) tools that would assist us in addressing FOIA requests with greater efficiency.

SECTION V: STEPS TAKEN TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCESS, IMPROVE TIMELINESS IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS, AND REDUCE BACKLOG

DOJ's 2022 FOIA Guidelines instruct agencies "to remove barriers to requesting and accessing government records and to reduce FOIA processing backlogs." Please answer the following questions to describe how your agency is removing barriers to access, improving timeliness in responding to requests, and reducing FOIA backlogs.

A. Remove Barriers to Access

1. Has your agency established alternative means of access for any categories of first-party requested records, outside of the typical FOIA or Privacy Act process?

Yes

2. If yes, please provide examples. If no, please indicate why not. Please also indicate if you do not know.

- **If an individual is requesting information from their own claim file, we direct them to their local Social Security office to request the records. See our regulations at 20 C.F.R. Part 401.**
- **Many records are available to first-party requesters via a [my Social Security](#) account.**

3. Please describe any other steps your agency has taken to remove barriers to accessing government information.

SSA has *Electronic Request for Consent to Disclose* where first-party requesters can verify their identity and then electronically consent to and authorize SSA to disclose a selected group of records to another person or entity. More information on this service is available at:

https://www.ssa.gov/privacy/electronic_request_for_consent_to_disclose.html

B. Timeliness

4. For Fiscal Year 2025, what was the average number of days your agency reported for adjudicating requests for expedited processing? Please see Section VIII.A of your agency's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report.

12.41 days

5. If your agency's average number of days to adjudicate requests for expedited processing was more than ten calendar days, according to Section VIII.A of your agency's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report, please describe the steps your agency will take to ensure that requests for expedited processing are adjudicated within ten calendar days or less.

We have begun holding weekly meetings to review the status of expedited processing and fee waiver requests to ensure they are processed timely. We also issue weekly reports of pending expedited processing requests.

6. Does your agency utilize a separate track for simple requests?

Yes

7. If your agency uses a separate track for simple requests, according to Annual FOIA Report section VII.A, was the agency overall average number of days to process simple requests twenty working days or fewer in Fiscal Year 2025?

Yes

8. If not, did the simple track average processing time decrease compared to the previous Fiscal Year?

N/A

9. Please provide the percentage of requests processed by your agency in Fiscal Year 2025 that were placed in your simple track. Please use the following calculation based on the data from your Annual FOIA Report: (processed simple requests from Section VII.C.1) divided by (requests processed from Section V.A.) x 100.

89.07%

10. If your agency does not track simple cases separately, was the average number of days to process all non-expedited requests twenty working days or fewer?

N/A

C. Backlogs

BACKLOGGED REQUESTS

11. If your agency had a backlog of requests at the close of Fiscal Year 2025, according to Annual FOIA Report Section XII.D.2, did the backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2024?

Yes

12. If not, according to Annual Report Section XII.D.1, did your agency process more requests during Fiscal Year 2025 than it did in Fiscal Year 2024?

N/A

13. If your agency's request backlog increased during Fiscal Year 2025, please explain why and describe the causes that contributed to your agency not being able to reduce its backlog. When doing so, please also indicate if any of the following were contributing factors:

- An increase in the number of incoming requests
- A loss of staff
- An increase in the complexity of the requests received (if possible, please provide examples or briefly describe the types of complex requests contributing to your backlog increase)
- Litigation
- Any other reasons – please briefly describe or provide examples when possible.

N/A

14. If you had a request backlog, please report the percentage of requests that make up the backlog out of the total number of requests received by your agency in Fiscal Year 2025. Please use the following calculation based on data from your Annual FOIA Report: (backlogged requests from Section XII.A) divided by (requests received from Section V.A) x 100. This number can be greater than 100%. If your agency has no request backlog, please answer with "N/A."

3.54%

BACKLOGGED APPEALS

15. If your agency had a backlog of appeals at the close of Fiscal Year 2025, according to Section XII.E.2 of the Annual FOIA Report, did the backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2024?

No

16. If not, according to Section XII.E.1 of the Annual FOIA Report, did your agency process more appeals during Fiscal Year 2025 than it did during Fiscal Year 2024?

Yes

17. If your agency's appeal backlog increased during Fiscal Year 2025, please explain why and describe the causes that contributed to your agency not being able to reduce its backlog. When doing so, please also indicate if any of the following were contributing factors:

- An increase in the number of incoming appeals
- A loss of staff
- An increase in the complexity of the requests received (if possible, please provide examples or briefly describe the types of complex requests contributing to your backlog increase)
- Litigation
- Any other reasons – please briefly describe or provide examples when possible.

SSA has seen an increase in complex FOIA requests, an increase in emails to our FOIA Public Liaison electronic mailbox, and an increase in FOIA litigation.

18. If you had an appeal backlog, please report the percentage of appeals that make up the backlog out of the total number of appeals received by your agency in Fiscal Year 2025. Please use the following calculation based on data from your Annual FOIA Report: (backlogged appeals from Section XII.A) divided by (appeals received in Section VI.A) x 100. This number can be greater than 100%. If your agency did not receive any appeals in Fiscal Year 2025 and/or has no appeal backlog, please answer with “N/A.”

5.44%

D. Backlog Reduction Plans

19. In the 2025 guidelines for the Chief FOIA Officer Reports, any agency with a backlog of over 1000 requests in Fiscal Year 2024 was asked to provide a plan for achieving backlog reduction in the year ahead. Did your agency implement a backlog reduction plan last year? If so, describe your agency’s efforts in implementing this plan and note if your agency was able to achieve backlog reduction in Fiscal Year 2025.

No, SSA did not have a backlog of more than 1000 requests in Fiscal Year 2024.

20. If your agency had a backlog of more than 1000 requests in Fiscal Year 2025, please explain your agency’s plan to reduce this backlog in Fiscal Year 2026.

N/A

E. Reducing the Age of Requests, Appeals, and Consultations

TEN OLDEST REQUESTS

21. In Fiscal Year 2025, did your agency close the ten oldest pending perfected requests that were reported in Section VII.E of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report?

No

22. If no, please provide the number of these requests your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section VII.E of your Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten oldest requests to close, please indicate that.

7

23. Beyond work on the ten oldest requests, please describe any steps your agency took to reduce the overall age of your pending requests.

The FOIA Division Director meets with each analyst bi-weekly to discuss their cases and to overcome any challenges to move these cases along which assists in closing our aged requests. In addition to the bi-weekly meetings, the FOIA Division Director and analysts meet monthly to work through the oldest pending cases. Our FOIA professionals also check-in with requesters to determine if they are still interested in pursuing their requests.

TEN OLDEST APPEALS

24. In Fiscal Year 2025, did your agency close the ten oldest appeals that were reported pending in Section VI.C.5 for your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report?

No

25. If no, please provide the number of these appeals your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section XII.C of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten oldest appeals to close, please indicate that.

3

26. Beyond work on the ten oldest appeals, please describe any steps your agency took to reduce the overall age of your pending appeals.

The FOIA Division Director meets with each analyst bi-weekly to discuss their cases and to overcome any challenges to move these cases along which assists in closing our aged appeals. In addition to the bi-weekly meetings, the FOIA Division Director and analysts meet monthly to work through the oldest pending cases. Our FOIA professionals also check-in with requesters to determine if they are still interested in pursuing their appeals.

TEN OLDEST CONSULTATIONS

27. In Fiscal Year 2025, did your agency close the ten oldest consultations that were reported in Section XII.C of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report?

Yes

28. If no, please provide the number of these consultations your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section XII.C of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten oldest consultations to close, please indicate that.

N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING TEN OLDEST

29. If your agency did not close its ten oldest pending requests, appeals, or consultations, please explain why and provide a plan describing how your agency intends to close those “ten oldest” requests, appeals, and consultations during Fiscal Year 2026.

The outstanding requests are large and complex and require significant time to process and review. The FOIA Division Director meets with all FOIA analysts bi-weekly to discuss their cases and on a monthly basis to focus on the oldest cases.

F. Additional Information about FOIA Processing

30. Were any requests at your agency the subject of FOIA litigation during the reporting period? If so, please describe the impact on your agency’s overall FOIA request processing and backlog. If possible, please indicate:

- The number and nature of requests subject to litigation,
- Common causes leading to litigation,
- Any other information to illustrate the impact of litigation on your overall FOIA administration.

During Fiscal Year 2025, SSA had 15 pending FOIA litigations. The common litigation cause was regarding production of requested records and fees. A few of these litigations involved multiple complex requests. As reported in the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA report, the cost of litigation in Fiscal Year 2025 was \$96,813.00.