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26 August 2016  
Mr. Shaun Donovan  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

SUBJECT: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Advisory Committee Recommendation  
Regarding FOIA Fees

Dear Mr. Donovan:

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Advisory Committee, established within the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in accordance with the second United States Open Government National Action Plan, submitted to me an approved recommendation that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revise its 1987 FOIA Fee Guidelines<sup>1</sup> to reflect technological changes and to clarify fee issues.

The Committee is governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App., and its objective is to advise on ways to improve FOIA administration, and to make recommendations to me.

This recommendation had been unanimously approved during the 2014-16 term on April 19, 2016. At the first meeting of its 2016-18 term on July 21, 2016, the Committee unanimously re-affirmed its recommendation.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Freedom of Information Reform Act of 1986; Uniform Freedom of Information Act Fee Schedule and Guidelines," Federal Register, Vol. 52, No. 59, Friday, March 27, 1987, accessed August 12, 2016, [https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/inforeg/foia\\_fee\\_schedule\\_1987.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/inforeg/foia_fee_schedule_1987.pdf).

It is the Committee's view that revising OMB's fee guidelines would improve Government-wide administration of FOIA by clarifying fees issues for requesters and Federal agencies, establishing a less subjective and more transparent fee assessment process, and reducing the amount of time it takes agencies to assess fees.

Attached is a copy of the FOIA Advisory Committee's first term (2014-16) report and recommendation for your review. I respectfully request your consideration of the recommendations which reflect the Committee's thoughtful and thorough work on this important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. S. Ferriero", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DAVID S. FERRIERO  
Archivist of the United States

cc: Ms. Lisa Danzig, OMB Associate Director for Performance and Personnel Management

Attachment: Final Report and Recommendations – FOIA Federal Advisory Committee  
April 19, 2016