

FOIA Fees Subcommittee Update
July 21, 2015

- The subcommittee met on July 9, 2015.
- Discussion included
 - The current fees survey being conducted among agency FOIA professionals and what to do with the results.
 - Research on the ability for agencies to waive fees as a matter of discretion.
 - The proposed fees survey for FOIA requesters.
- Current survey with agency FOIA professionals.
 - The committee's Designated Federal Officer (DFO) stated that over 375 have responded to the survey so far.
 - The results of the survey will be available toward the end of July. It closes on July 22, 2015.
 - The subcommittee will discuss the results at a meeting in mid-August, and then will determine additional reports it may want from the data.
- Research on the ability for agencies to waive fees as a matter of discretion.
 - The subcommittee wants to explore the appropriateness of agencies encouraging the waiving of fees if it's in their interest.
 - If it is deemed appropriate, then the subcommittee will explore the pros and cons of such a policy, with the end result of possibly encouraging agencies to initiate such a policy.
- The proposed fees survey for FOIA requesters.
 - The subcommittee finished circulating proposed questions, and has submitted them to the DFO for approval by the National Archives.
 - The subcommittee expects the data resulting from this study will be very valuable in assisting its primary objective, the drafting of a potential legislative proposal to revise FOIA fees.