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Revised Recommendation C from the Vision Subcommittee of the FOIA Advisory Committee

C. FOI and Performance Planning Best Practices

Recommendation: The Archivist asks OGIS to develop a report examining and documenting agency best practices in incorporating the Freedom of Information Act into the performance planning processes.

Rational:

The 2016-18 Freedom of Information Act Federal Advisory Committee made recommendations in its [final report](#) regarding federal *employee* performance standards and FOIA. This recommendation addresses something different--not the performance of individual employees but of *agencies* as a whole. Research has shown that the FOIA is absent from most federal agency performance plans (see Piotrowski and Rosenbloom 2002, and Piotrowski et al 2018). Federal agency performance plans are publicly available at Performance.gov and the process is coordinated by the [Performance Improvement Council](#).

The inclusion of FOIA-related performance measures in the Agency Performance Plans and Reports requires agency leadership, not just designated FOIA personnel, to track progress on FOIA implementation. We recommend that OGIS develops a brief report providing examples of how different agencies have already incorporated FOIA-related performance measures into Agency Performance Plans and Reports. For example, the EPA's [FY 2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#) has a long-term performance goal which addresses FOIA implementation: "LTPG 2.2.1 By September 30, 2022, eliminate the backlog and meet statutory deadlines for responding to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests." Having an easily accessible and understandable

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document which can be quickly referenced will hopefully encourage the inclusion of more agency-level FOIA-related performance measures.

Sources:

Piotrowski, S.J. and Rosenbloom, D.H. (2002), Nonmission–Based Values in Results–Oriented Public Management: The Case of Freedom of Information. *Public Administration Review*, 62: 643-657. doi:[10.1111/1540-6210.00247](https://doi.org/10.1111/1540-6210.00247)

Piotrowski, S., Rosenbloom, D.H., Kang, S. and Ingrams, A. (2018), Levels of Value Integration in Federal Agencies' Mission and Value Statements: Is Open Government a Performance Target of U.S. Federal Agencies?. *Public Admin Rev*, 78: 705-716. doi:[10.1111/puar.12937](https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.12937)