

**Congress should amend FOIA to mandate regular publication of agency FOIA logs to contain 13 fields generally maintained in agency FOIA tracking systems.**

**Make FOIA Logs Affirmatively Available** (updated February 25, 2026 to strike through FOIA log fields Nos. 7 and 15 as per Statutory Reform Subcommittee vote)

FOIA's affirmative disclosure provisions should mandate the ongoing publication of agency FOIA logs on at least a quarterly basis, unless the agency receives fewer than 100 requests per year in which case it could publish them semi-annually. The logs should contain:

- 1) the tracking number of the request,
- 2) the date of the request,
- 3) the name of the requester, unless the requester is a first-person requester seeking access to their own information,
- 4) the organizational affiliation of the requester, if identified in the request,
- 5) the subject matter of the request,
- 6) the status of the request,
- ~~7) the date the request was perfected,~~
- 8) the result of the request (if closed),
- 9) exemptions cited, if any,
- 10), the date on which the request was resolved,
- 11) the fee category assigned to the request,
- 12) whether a fee waiver was requested,
- 13) if a fee waiver was requested, whether it was granted,
- 14) fees charged to the requester, if any, and
- ~~15) whether the request was also processed under the Privacy Act.~~

The logs should be posted in Excel or CSV format and transmitted to DOJ for additional posting on [foia.gov](https://www.foia.gov).

Explanation: FOIA logs have proven useful to government policymakers, reporters, and academics alike. Sometimes the use is one that promotes FOIA efficiency: searching the logs can help a requester make a more precise request or request records already produced that would be readily available to the FOIA office. In other instances, the logs have promoted improvements to FOIA administration. The logs are maintained by the agency as part of their responsibilities to track requests and meet statutory deadlines, as well as to report aggregate processing statistics to Congress and the DOJ each year. And most agencies post some form of the logs already, albeit not a standardized one.

On the basis of the prior research supporting these conclusions, it seems entirely feasible for agencies to publish logs on an ongoing basis in a standardized form. This recommendation was made by prior terms of the federal FOIA Advisory Committee and the details of the recommendation are drawn directly from that work. See [Final Report and Recommendations, 2016-2018 FOIA Advisory Committee; Federal Advisory Committee Recommendation, 2022-10.](#)