

Export-Import Bank of the United States  
Chief FOIA Officer Report

2026



# **EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES CHIEF FOIA OFFICER REPORT**

**March 6, 2026**

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## **FOIA at the Export Import Bank of the United States**

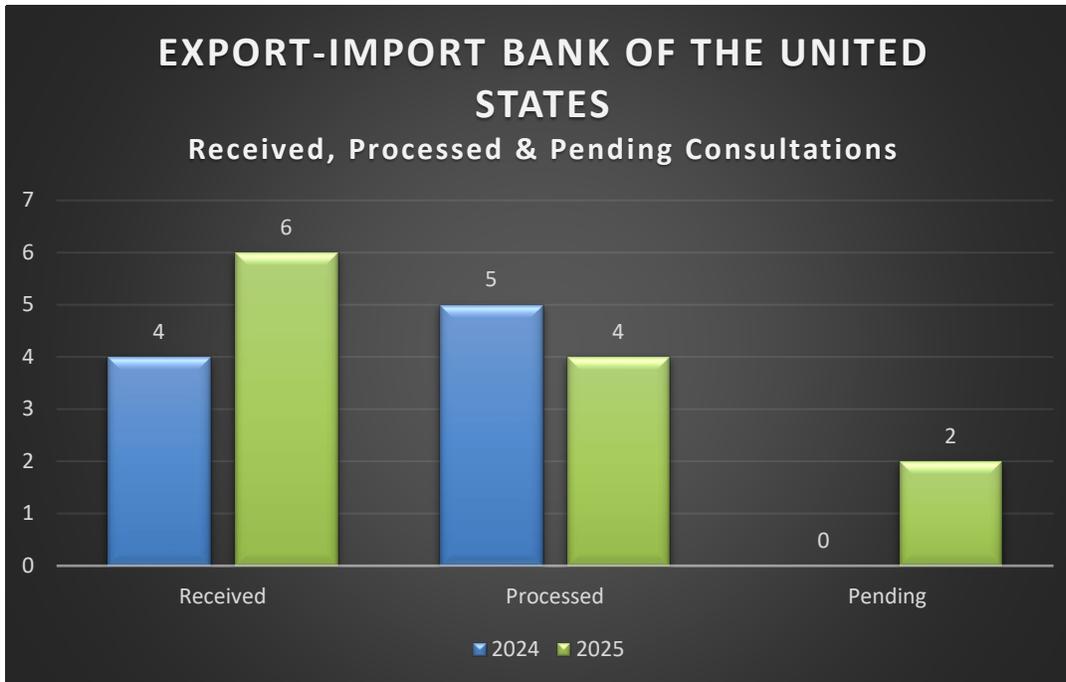
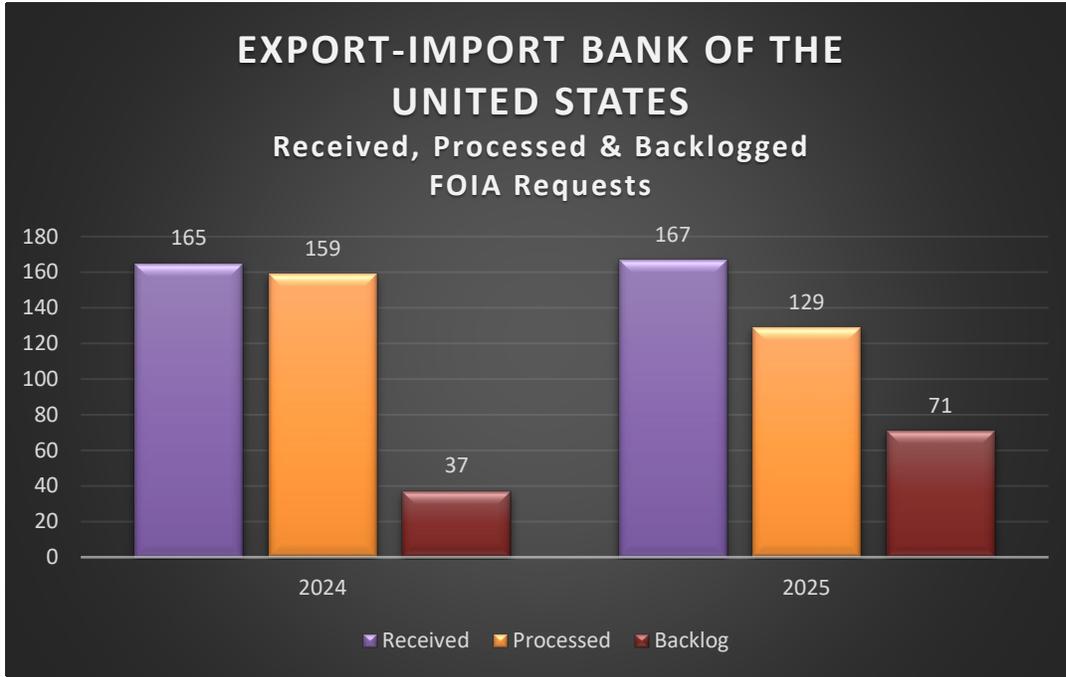
This report covers the period from October 1, 2024, to March 2026. Statistical information included within this report is based on the EXIM's Fiscal Year 2025 FOIA Annual Report.

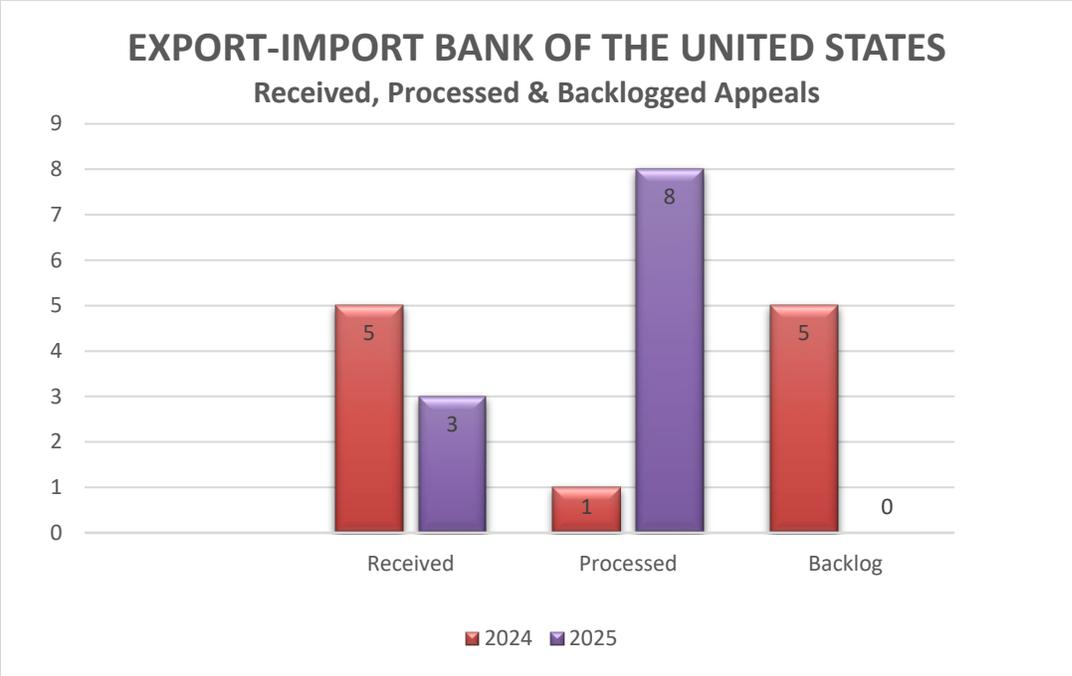
The Export-Import Bank of the United States ("EXIM" or "Agency") is an independent Executive Branch agency with a mission of supporting American jobs by facilitating the export of U.S. goods and services. It seeks to accomplish this mission by ensuring that U.S. companies, large and small, have access to the financing needed to turn export opportunities into sales. Keeping with our mission, the agency has a strong commitment to transparency, ensuring that accurate and relevant information about its activities is made available or is easily accessible by the public. Available via the EXIM website, the public can access information, Annual Reports, FOIA Logs, Country Limitation Schedules, Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors, Congressional Budget Justification Reports, Congressional Logs, and policies of the Office of Ethics.

EXIM receives most requests electronically, either via email through the National FOIA portal, through a dedicated FOIA mailbox, through a fillable form on EXIM's website or the PAL Portal. The PAL Portal allows requesters to submit a request electronically and to check the status of their FOIA requests. Because EXIM is a small agency and its FOIA office is centralized. Headquarters is the only component within EXIM which receives FOIA requests. Each member of EXIM's FOIA Team, including the Chief FOIA Officer, receives new requests via email or an email notification when new requests are submitted directly into the system via PAL or the National FOIA Portal. This ensures that the initial request is seen by all team members. The FOIA Team logs in any requests received via direct mail or email and assigns a tracking number. The tracking number is provided to the requester via direct mail or email. Requests submitted through the PAL Portal or the National FOIA portal are logged automatically and assigned a tracking number, which is automatically provided to the requester via email. The FOIA Team analyzes each request to determine whether the request contains sufficient information to clearly identify the records in question. If the requested records are not clearly identifiable, the FOIA Public Liaison contacts the requester via telephone or email to seek clarification. If the request is overly broad, the FOIA Public Liaison works with the requester to determine their specific need so the scope of the request can be clearly defined, and the request can be processed in the most expeditious manner possible.

EXIM utilizes a FOIA-specific software package, which allows us to efficiently track and process requests in a timely manner. All members of EXIM's centralized FOIA Team have access to this software. Members of EXIM's FOIA and IT Teams regularly consult with the software vendor's IT staff to discuss and manage updates and improvements.

**Overview of Fiscal Year 2025 Processing of FOIA Request, Consultation and Appeals**





**Section I: FOIA Leadership and Applying the Presumption of Openness**

**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 Senior or equivalent level. 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.*

Mr. Lance Mathews  
Deputy Chief Ethics Officer

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?*

Goal 4 of EXIM's Strategic Plan includes the statement "Promote the integrity and transparency of our operations and processes." Specific FOIA milestones are not incorporated.

## **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 nor deny the existence of requested records if acknowledging the existence of records would harm an interested 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.*

In FY 2025, EXIM did not issue any Glomar responses.

- *The number of times a Glomar response was issued by exemption.*

In FY 2025, EXIM did not issue any Glomar responses by exemption.

## **Section II: Ensuring Fair and Effective FOIA Administration**

### **A. FOIA Training**

1. *The FOIA directs the agency Chief FOIA Officers to ensure that FOIA Training is offered to agency personnel. Please describe the efforts your agency has undertaken to ensure proper FOIA training is made available and used by agency personnel.*

To emphasize the importance of the FOIA, the FOIA Unit hosted four live (virtual) FOIA training sessions, which are available to all EXIM employees. The training included topics such as what is a record under FOIA and how to conduct an adequate records search, FOIA Overview of the FOIA Process, FOIA Exemptions 4, 5 and 6, proactive disclosure and foreseeable harm standard. Each training session is recorded and posted to EXIM's internal website for viewing by staff. EXIM's FOIA Team will continue to offer FOIA training to staff in FY 2026.

The FOIA Unit also published and distributed to the workforce quarterly newsletters which highlight a relevant FOIA topic and "FOIA in the news."

2. *Did your FOIA professionals or other personnel at your agency with FOIA responsibilities attend substantive FOIA training during the reporting period, such as training 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.*

In FY 2025, EXIM's FOIA professionals attended training provided by the Department of Justice and conducted FOIA training for EXIM employees:

- The Department of Justice's Virtual Annual FOIA Report Refresher and Quarterly Report Training, Introduction to FOIA Workshop, Advanced FOIA Training, Litigation Workshop, Virtual Procedural Requirements and Fees Workshop, Exemption 1 & 7 Training, Exemption 4 & 5 Training, Virtual Privacy Considerations Virtual Administrative Appeals, FOIA Compliance & Customer Service Training and FOIA Litigation Seminar.
- EXIM's Virtual FOIA Training on What is a Record Under FOIA and How to Conduct an Adequate Records Search, FOIA Overview of the FOIA Process, FOIA Exemptions 4, 5 and 6, Proactive Disclosure and Foreseeable Harm Standard.

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?*

In 2025, 100% of EXIM's FOIA professionals and staff attended and participated in FOIA training.

5. *OIP has directed agencies to "take steps to ensure that all of their FOIA professionals attend substantive FOIA training at least once throughout the 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 period.*

Not applicable.

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 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?*

The FOIA Office continues to host four live (virtual) FOIA training sessions annually, which are available to all EXIM employees, and publish a quarterly newsletter for distribution to the workforce (see response to No. 1 above). Senior Management also receives a FOIA briefing during the on-boarding process and may also attend the training sessions offered by the FOIA office. The Chief FOIA Officer reports on FOIA matters during weekly senior staff meetings as appropriate.

## **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, as a part of the EXIM's FOIA process, FOIA professionals contact requestors for complex and voluminous requests to clarify the request or to obtain a narrowed scope. For example, the search results for a specific request returned over 20,000 documents. The analyst contacted the requester to inform them of the number of records the search found. The requester in turn narrowed the scope of the request by eliminating specific items and narrowing the date range, which reduced the number of documents to roughly 500, which reduced the number of record EXIM had to process and allowed us to provide a response faster than anticipated.

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?*

No, FOIA professionals did not engage in any outreach this fiscal year. However, we did maintain an open dialogue with requesters to discuss any aspect of their requests and to answer any questions.

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.*

The FOIA Public Liaison provided assistance for five requesters during FY 2025.

### **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.*

Staffing levels are evaluated during the budget request process and as needed. Current staffing levels in the FOIA office are sufficient to meet the anticipated demand. However, the agency currently has two vacancies in OGC, which conducts legal reviews for FOIA.

*11. How does your agency use data or processing metrics to ensure efficient management of your FOIA workload?*

The FOIA Team uses processing metrics to determine request priority, in the FOIA queue. We prioritize the backlog and new requests based on age metrics and Multi-Track Type Assignment. This ensures that the oldest requests and any requests assigned to the simple track are processed foremost.

### **Section III: Proactive Disclosures**

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

The FOIA Office manually tracks any proactive releases made by the agency. To identify records to proactively release, the FOIA Unit tracks all requests as they come into the agency and identifies any requests for information that has been submitted three times or more times. These records are flagged for proactive disclosure. The Chief FOIA Officer is notified of the required posting of the records; the records are then posted to the website by the IT Department. The FOIA Unit also reaches out to other offices within the agency to identify records that would be of interest to the public that can be proactively disclosed. This allows the agency to identify records outside of the FOIA Unit that can be disclosed by posting them on the website. Additionally, various EXIM offices and divisions routinely post information to the website. These postings are also tracked by the FOIA Unit.

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

Yes.

- *If so, what information is contained in the logs?*

The FOIA Log contains the Request ID Number, Request Date, Requester Name, Organization Name, Request Description, and the Review Status.

- *Are they posted in CSV format? If not, what format are they posted in?*

No, the FOIA Log is posted in Excel format.

- *Please provide a link to the page where any FOIA logs are posted.*

<https://www.exim.gov/about/foia/exim-foia-library>

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).*

Materials EXIM has proactively disclosed and posted on the Web site:

- FOIA Annual Reports- <https://www.exim.gov/about/foia/annual-reports>
- EXIM Annual Reports- <https://www.exim.gov/news/reports/annual-reports>
- FOIA Log- [FOIA Log-2023-September 30-2025.xlsx](#)
- FY 2026 FOIA Log- [foia-log-october-2025-january-31-2026.xlsx](#)
- FOIA Stats- <https://www.exim.gov/about/foia/foia-stats>
- Country Limitation Schedule- <https://www.exim.gov/tools-for-exporters/country-limitation-schedule>
- Minutes of the Board of Directors and Credit Committee  
<https://www.exim.gov/news/minutes>
- Advisory Committee Transcripts: <https://www.exim.gov/leadership-governance/advisory-committees/transcripts>
- The Chief FOIA Officer Reports- [Chief FOIA Officer Reports | EXIM.GOV](#)
- Congressional Budget Justification Reports- [Budget Justifications | EXIM.GOV](#)
- EXIM Strategic and Annual Performance Plans: <https://www.exim.gov/leadership-governance/strategic-plans>
- Quarterly Data- [Export-Import Bank of the US - Organizations - Catalog \(data.gov\)](#)
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessments- <https://www.exim.gov/policies/ex-im-bank-and-the-environment/pending-transactions>

- Competitiveness Report- <https://www.exim.gov/news/reports/competitiveness-reports>
- Export Data-USA- <https://www.exim.gov/leadership-governance/Congressional-Government-Stakeholders>
- Default Rate Reports: [Default Rate Reports | EXIM.GOV](#)
- OIG Semiannual Reports to Congress: [Reports | Export-Import Bank of the United States OIG](#)
- OIG- Audit Reports: [Reports | Export-Import Bank of the United States OIG](#)
- OIG Evaluation Reports: [All Reports | Export-Import Bank of the United States OIG](#)
- OIG Peer Review Reports: [All Reports | Export-Import Bank of the United States OIG](#)
- EXIM News: <https://www.exim.gov/news>
- EXIM Anti-Harassment Policy: [https://img.exim.gov/s3fs-public/foia/OP-OHC-2022.06+-+Anti-Harassment+Policy+-+OP-OHC.2022.06+-+Anti-Harassment+Policy\\_508accessible.pdf](https://img.exim.gov/s3fs-public/foia/OP-OHC-2022.06+-+Anti-Harassment+Policy+-+OP-OHC.2022.06+-+Anti-Harassment+Policy_508accessible.pdf)

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

<https://www.exim.gov/about/foia/exim-foia-library>

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?*

Yes.

- *If yes, please provide examples of such improvements, such as steps taken to post information in open and machine-readable formats.*

EXIM continuously updates its website and FOIA page to make information easily accessible to the public and more user friendly. Each record posted in the Reading Room is provided either in HTML, PDF, XML or CSV formats and all content is Section 508 Compliant. Electronic forms allow users to apply for services online. EXIM also continues to update the downloadable statistical data relating to EXIM transactions.

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 this interaction.*

Yes, the FOIA Unit reaches out to other offices within the agency to identify records that would be of interest to the public and can be proactively disclosed. This communication is done via email. Also, we work with our IT staff to post records to the website and to ensure the records are 508 compliant.

#### **Section IV: Steps Taken to Make Better Use Technology**

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

Yes, we reviewed our technical capabilities and have identified technological that will simplify record processing, to improve response times. We are currently working on obtaining clearance to use the technology.

2. *Please briefly describe any new types of technology your agency uses to support your FOIA program.*

EXIM did not use any new technology in FY25 to support its FOIA program.

3. *Does your agency currently use any technology to automate record processing? For example, does your agency use machine learning, predictive coding, technology assisted review or similar 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.*

EXIM uses Adobe to process records and to assist with the review process. Adobe allows us to search documents to identify duplicates and locate information that is in multiple places within the production. This identification allows us to apply redactions or release information consistently throughout production.

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 2025.*

Not applicable.

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 the posting for your agency's Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report, and if available, for your agency's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report.*

FY 2024 Annual Report and Raw Data: <https://www.exim.gov/about/foia/annual-reports>

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.

## **Section V: Steps Taken to Remove Barriers to Access, Improve Timeliness in Responding to Requests, And Reduce 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.*

EXIM employees may obtain some Human Resources-related records directly from Human Capital. Also, employees can submit a Privacy Act Request to obtain access to their personal records.

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

EXIM has not taken any additional steps at this time.

### **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.*

In FY 2025, EXIM reported three days for adjudicating expedited processing requests.

5. *If your agency's average number of days to adjudicate requests for expedited processing was above 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.*

Not applicable.

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's overall average number of days to process simple requests twenty working days or fewer in Fiscal Year 2025?*

Yes, EXIM's overall average number of days to process simple requests was fewer than twenty working days. EXIM's overall average number of days to process simple requests is 14.75.

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

No, the simple track average processing time increased in FY 2025 as compared to FY 2024, which was 10.92.

9. *Please provide the percentage of requests processed by your agency in Fiscal Year 2025 that were placed in your simple track.*

In 2025, 39 percent of the requests processed were placed on the simple track.

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

Not applicable.

## 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 that backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2024?*

No, the backlog from FY 2025 did not decrease as compared with FY 2024. The backlog increased by 34, from 34 in FY 2024 to 71 in FY 2025.

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

No, EXIM processed less requests in FY 2025 than it did in FY 2024. In FY 2025 EXIM processed 129 requests and 159 in FY 2024.

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.*

In FY 2025, the number of complex requests received increased and many of these requests are for voluminous email records that will take a significant amount of time to process. Also, staffing challenges in the Office of General Counsel, which conducts the legal review of all FOIA requests, also impacted processing and response times.

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.*

In FY 2025, 43 percent of requests make up the backlog.

## **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 that backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2024?*

Yes, the appeals backlog decreased in FY 2025. EXIM backlog decreased from five in 2024 to zero in 2025.

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, EXIM did process more appeals than it did in FY 2025 than it did during FY 2024. In FY 2024, one appeal was processed, and eight appeals were processed in FY 2025.

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.*

Not applicable.

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.*

Not applicable.

## **D. Backlog Reduction Plans**

19. *In the 2025 guidelines for Chief FOIA Officer Reports, any agency with a backlog of over 1000 requests in Fiscal Year 2024 were 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?*

Not applicable.

*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 during Fiscal Year 2026.*

Not applicable.

## **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 total oldest requests to close, please indicate that.*

In FY 2025, EXIM closed eight of the ten oldest requests.

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

EXIM prioritized the FOIA queue, so requests placed on the simple track are processed first. Complex requests are prioritized based on complexity and we contact requesters to narrow the scope of the request if necessary so we can process the request as expeditiously as possible. Additionally, EXIM's FOIA Team meets regularly to monitor the FOIA case queue, discuss any issues that arise

with any cases and set processing goals for backlog cases. EXIM continues to provide interim responses for backlog 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 of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report?*

Yes.

*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 VII.C(5) of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest appeals to close, please indicate that.*

In FY 2025, EXIM closed eight appeals.

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

Appeals placed on the simple track are processed first and complex appeals are prioritized based on complexity and then processed as quickly as possible.

### **Ten Oldest Consultations**

*27. In Fiscal Year 2025, did your agency close the ten oldest consultations that were reported pending in Section XII.C. of your Fiscal Year 2023 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 2023 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest consultations to close, please indicate that.*

In FY 2025, EXIM closed four consultations.

### **Additional Information Regarding Ten Oldest Request**

*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.*

EXIM’s plan to close the ten oldest requests in FY 2025:

To give priority to the ten oldest requests by establishing a schedule to provide rolling releases; coordinate with component offices to make records searches a priority, adjust FOIA case queue assignment among staff to ensure timely processing and to contact requesters to confirm if the requested information is still pertinent. Also, we are currently working on obtaining clearance to use FOIA technology to improve processing.

### **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, and any other information to illustrate the impact of litigation on your overall FOIA administration.*

No.

