n

Freedom Of Information Act
Annual Report
FY 2026

The following **Annual Freedom of Information Act** report covers the
Period 10/01/2025, through 09/30/2026, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552

.

I. BASIC INFORMATION REGARDING REPORT

1. Provide name, title, address, and telephone number of person(s) to be contacted with questions about the Report.

Rahiq Syed, Acting FOIA Officer
Tamara Crawford, FOIA Specialist
Melinda Hill, FOIA Specialist

National Transportation Safety Board
Attn: FOIA Requester Service Center (CIO-40)
490 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20594
(202) 314-6540
foia@ntsb.gov

2. Provide an electronic link for access to the Report on the agency Web site.

FOIA Plans and Reports

3. Explain how to obtain a copy of the Report in paper form.

Contact the FOIA Requester Service Center at the address, telephone number, or e-mail listed above.

II. MAKING A FOIA REQUEST

1. Provide names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all individual agency components that receive FOIA requests.

National Transportation Safety Board
Attn: FOIA Requester Service Center (CIO-40)
490 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20594
(202) 314-6540
foia@ntsb.gov

You may also use the NTSB's online Public Access Link (PAL): NTSB FOIA Portal-Home: or FOIA.gov: FOIA.gov - Freedom of Information Act

If you are seeking information concerning accident investigations, safety recommendations, or NTSB accident statistics, please review the following CAROL (Case Analysis and Reporting Online) help page at https://www.ntsb.gov/pages/carol.aspx . There is no need to file a FOIA request for public records. Records are not available during ongoing investigations. Please check the website periodically for the accident docket you may be seeking

2. Provide a brief description of why some requests are not granted and an overview of certain general categories of the agency's records to which the FOIA exemptions apply.

Why some requests are not granted:

- requested records are exempt from disclosure pursuant to one of the nine exemptions under the FOIA;
- requests for records are withdrawn;
- requested records do not exist;
- request posed an answer to questions and not a request for records;
- request is a duplicate request;
- requested records are publicly available.

- Overview of certain general categories of NTSB records to which FOIA exemptions apply:

  - requested records are exempt due to federal statute that exempts information from disclosure (Exemption 3)
  - requested records is deemed proprietary and commercially sensitive; contains trade secrets and other business information (Exemption 4)
  - requested records is inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges (Exemption 5)
  - requested records contain personal privacy information (Exemption 6)

3. Provide a functional electronic link to agency FOIA regulations, including the agency's fee schedule. (NOTE: Agency FOIA Regulations were formerly listed at Section XI of the human-readable version of the Report).

See 49 CFR Part 801: eCFR :: 49 CFR Part 801 -- Public Availability of Information

III. ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS

1. Include the following definitions of terms used in this Report:

a. **Administrative Appeal** - a request to a federal agency asking that it review at a higher administrative level a FOIA determination made by the agency at the initial request level.

b. **Average Number** - the number obtained by dividing the sum of a group of numbers by the quantity of numbers in the group. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the average number is 8.

c. **Backlog** - the number of requests or administrative appeals that are pending at an agency at the end of the fiscal year that are beyond the statutory time period for a response.

d. **Component** - for agencies that process requests on a decentralized basis, a "component" is an entity, also sometimes referred to as an Office, Division, Bureau, Center, or Directorate, within the agency that processes FOIA requests. The FOIA now requires that agencies include in their Annual FOIA Report data for both the agency overall and for each principal component of the agency.

e. **Consultation** - the procedure whereby the agency responding to a FOIA request first forwards a record to another agency for its review because that other agency has an interest in the document. Once the agency in receipt of the consultation finishes its review of the record, it responds back to the agency that forwarded it. That agency, in turn, will then respond to the FOIA requester.

f. **Exemption 3 Statute** - a federal statute that exempts information from disclosure and which the agency relies on to withhold information under subsection (b)(3) of the FOIA.

g. **FOIA Request** - a FOIA request is generally a request to a federal agency for access to records concerning another person (i.e., a "third-party" request), or concerning an organization, or a particular topic of interest. FOIA requests also include requests made by requesters seeking records concerning themselves (i.e., "first-party" requests) when those requesters are not subject to the Privacy Act, such as non-U.S. citizens. Moreover, because all first-party requesters should be afforded the benefit of both the access provisions of the FOIA as well as those of the Privacy Act, FOIA requests also include any first-party requests where an agency determines that it must search beyond its Privacy Act "systems of records" or where a Privacy Act exemption applies, and the agency looks to FOIA to afford the greatest possible access. All requests which require the agency to utilize the FOIA in responding to the requester are included in this Report.

   Additionally, a FOIA request includes records referred to the agency for processing and direct response to the requester. It does not, however, include records for which the agency has received a consultation from another agency. (Consultations are reported separately in Section XII of this Report.)

h. **Full Grant** - an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.

i. **Full Denial** - an agency decision not to release any records in response to a FOIA request because the records are exempt in their entireties under one or more of the FOIA exemptions, or because of a procedural reason, such as when no records could be located.

j. **Median Number** - the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.

k. **Multi-Track Processing** - a system in which simple requests requiring relatively minimal review are placed in one processing track and more voluminous and complex requests are placed in one or more other tracks. Requests granted expedited processing are placed in yet another track. Requests in each track are processed on a first in/first out basis.

   i. **Expedited Processing** - an agency will process a FOIA request on an expedited basis when a requester satisfies the requirements for expedited processing as set forth in the statute and in agency regulations.

   ii. **Simple Request** - a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in its fastest (non-expedited) track based on the low volume and/or simplicity of the records requested.

iii. **Complex Request** - a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in a slower track based on the high volume and/or complexity of the records requested.

l. **Partial Grant/Partial Denial** - in response to a FOIA request, an agency decision to disclose portions of the records and to withhold other portions that are exempt under the FOIA, or to otherwise deny a portion of the request for a procedural reason.

m. **Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal** - a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.

n. **Perfected Request** - a request for records which reasonably describes such records and is made in accordance with published rules stating the time, place, fees (if any) and procedures to be followed.

o. **Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal** - a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has taken final action in all respects.

p. **Range in Number of Days** - the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.

q. **Time Limits** - the time period in the statute for an agency to respond to a FOIA request (ordinarily twenty working days from receipt of a perfected FOIA request).

2. Include the following concise descriptions of the nine FOIA exemptions:

a. **Exemption 1:** classified national defense and foreign relations information

b. **Exemption 2:** internal agency rules and practices

c. **Exemption 3:** information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law

d. **Exemption 4:** trade secrets and other confidential business information

e. **Exemption 5:** inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges

f. **Exemption 6:** information involving matters of personal privacy

g. **Exemption 7:** records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent that the production of those records (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual

h. **Exemption 8:** information relating to the supervision of financial institutions

i. **Exemption 9:** geological information on wells

3. **Provide any agency-specific acronyms or terms used in this Report.**

Component Abbreviation	Component Name
NTSB	National Transportation Safety Board

IV. Exemption 3 Statutes

	A. For Initial Requests				
Statute	**Type of Information Withheld**	**Case Citation**	**Agency/ Component**	**Number of Times Relied upon per Component**	**Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency**
49 U.S.C. § 1114(c)	Certain "cockpit voice or video recorder recording[s] or transcript[s] of communications by and between flight crew members and ground stations pertaining to incident[s] investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board	McGilvra v. NTSB, 840 F. Supp. 100, 102 (D. Colo. 1993).	NTSB	3	3
49 U.S.C. § 1114(f)	Any information relating to Board participation in foreign aircraft accidents, where the country conducting the investigation has not issued its report or two years have not elapsed from the date of the accident.	N/A	NTSB	2	2
49 U.S.C. § 1136(d)	Passenger lists	N/A	NTSB	1	1
49 U.S.C. § 1114 (d)(1)	Certain surface vehicle recordings and transcripts related to an accident investigated by the Board	N/A	NTSB	2	2

V. FOIA REQUESTS

A. Received, Processed and Pending FOIA Requests				
	Number of Requests Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	**Number of Requests Received in Fiscal Year**	**Number of Requests Processed in Fiscal Year**	**Number of Requests Pending as of End of Fiscal Year**
NTSB	373	775	574	574
AGENCY OVERALL	373	775	574	574

B.(1) Disposition of FOIA Requests All Processed Requests													
	Number of Full Grants	Number of Partial Grants/ Partial Denials	Number of Full Denials Based on Exemptions	Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions									
				No records	All Records Referred to Another Component or Agency	Request withdrawn	Fee-related reason	Records not reasonably described	Improper FOIA Request for Other Reason	Not an agency record	Duplicate Request	Other *Explain in chart below	TOTAL
NTSB	29	73	128	113	6	41	0	10	157	4	13	0	574
AGENCY OVERALL	29	73	128	113	6	41	0	10	157	4	13	0	574

	B.(2) Disposition of FOIA Requests Other Reasons for Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions		
Component	Description of Other Reasons for Denials from Chart B (1)	& Number of Times Those Reasons Were Relied upon	TOTAL
NTSB	N/A	0	0
AGENCY			0

B.(3) Disposition of FOIA Requests Number of Times Exemptions Applied														
	(b)(1)	(b)(2)	(b)(3)	(b)(4)	(b)(5)	(b)(6)	(b)(7)(A)	(b)(7)(B)	(b)(7)(C)	(b)(7)(D)	(b)(7)(E)	(b)(7)(F)	(b)(8)	(b)(9)
NTSB	0	0	8	43	181	74	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	8	43	181	74	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS

A. Received, Processed and Pending Administrative Appeals				
	Number of Appeals Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
NTSB	0	19	19	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	19	19	0

B. Disposition of Administrative Appeals All Processed Appeals					
	Number Affirmed on Appeal	Number Partially Affirmed & Partially Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number Completely Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number ofAppeals Closed for Other Reasons	TOTAL
NTSB	12	2	0	5	19
AGENCY OVERALL	12	2	0	5	19

C.(1) Reasons for Denial on Appeal Number of Times Exemptions Applied														
	(b)(1)	(b)(2)	(b)(3)	(b)(4)	(b)(5)	(b)(6)	(b)(7)(A)	(b)(7)(B)	(b)(7)(C)	(b)(7)(D)	(b)(7)(E)	(b)(7)(F)	(b)(8)	(b)(9)
NTSB	0	0	0	1	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	1	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

C.(2) Reasons for Denial on Appeal Reasons Other than Exemptions											
	No records	Records Referred at Initial Request Level	Request withdrawn	Fee-related reason	Records not reasonably described	Improper FOIA Request for Other Reason	Not an agency record	Duplicate Request or Appeal	Request in Litigation	Appeal Based Solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing	Other *Explain in chart below
NTSB	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0
AGENCY OVERALL	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0

	C.(3) Reasons for Denial on Appeal Other Reasons		
Component	Description of Other Reasons for Denials from Chart C (2)	Number of Times Those Reasons Were Relied upon	TOTAL
NTSB	N/A	0	0
AGENCY			0

C.(4) Response Time for Administrative Appeals				
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
NTSB	13	12.05	<1	29
AGENCY OVERALL	13	12.05	<1	29

		C.(5) Ten Oldest Pending Administrative Appeals									
	Appeal and	10th Oldest	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Appeal and Number of Days Pending
NTSB	Date of Appeal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Appeal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VII. FOIA REQUESTS: RESPONSE TIME FOR PROCESSED AND PENDING REQUESTS

A. Processed Requests Response Time for All Processed Perfected Requests												
	SIMPLE				COMPLEX				EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
NTSB	22	68.72	<1	621	380	337.2	1	878	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	22	68.72	<1	621	380	337.2	1	878	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

B. Processed Requests Response Time for Perfected Requests in Which Information Was Granted												
	SIMPLE				COMPLEX				EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
NTSB	15.5	79.14	<1	621	361	323.7	7	878	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	15.5	79.14	<1	621	361	323.7	7	878	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

C. Processed Requests Response Time in Day Increments														
Simple Requests														
	<1-20 Days	**21-40 Days**	**41-60 Days**	**61-80 Days**	**81-100 Days**	**101-120 Days**	**121-140 Days**	**141-160 Days**	**161-180 Days**	**181-200 Days**	**201-300 Days**	**301-400 Days**	**401+ Days**	**TOTAL**
NTSB	154	64	34	14	10	2	1	3	2	4	2	11	18	319
AGENCY OVERALL	154	64	34	14	10	2	1	3	2	4	2	11	18	319
Complex Requests														
	<1-20 Days	**21-40 Days**	**41-60 Days**	**61-80 Days**	**81-100 Days**	**101-120 Days**	**121-140 Days**	**141-160 Days**	**161-180 Days**	**181-200 Days**	**201-300 Days**	**301-400 Days**	**401+ Days**	**TOTAL**
NTSB	8	4	5	4	3	1	0	1	0	0	12	8	42	88
AGENCY OVERALL	8	4	5	4	3	1	0	1	0	0	12	8	42	88
Requests Granted Expedited Processing														
	<1-20 Days	**21-40 Days**	**41-60 Days**	**61-80 Days**	**81-100 Days**	**101-120 Days**	**121-140 Days**	**141-160 Days**	**161-180 Days**	**181-200 Days**	**201-300 Days**	**301-400 Days**	**401+ Days**	**TOTAL**
NTSB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

D. Pending Requests All Pending Perfected Requests									
	SIMPLE			**COMPLEX**			**EXPEDITED PROCESSING**		
	Number Pending	**Median Number of Days**	**Average Number of Days**	**Number Pending**	**Median Number of Days**	**Average Number of Days**	**Number Pending**	**Median Number of Days**	**Average Number of Days**
NTSB	71	42	56.85	487	249	281.25	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	71	42	56.85	487	249	281.25	0	0	0

		E. Pending Requests Ten Oldest Pending Perfected Requests									
			9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request and Number of Days Pending
NTSB	Date of Receipt	2023-12-06	2023-11-06	2023-11-06	2023-10-30	2023-10-23	2023-09-27	2023-09-18	2023-09-18	2023-09-15	2023-06-20
AGENCY OVERALL	Number of Days Pending	705	725	725	730	735	752	759	759	760	821
NTSB	Date of Receipt	2023-12-06	2023-11-06	2023-11-06	2023-10-30	2023-10-23	2023-09-27	2023-09-18	2023-09-18	2023-09-15	2023-06-20
AGENCY OVERALL	Number of Days Pending	705	725	725	730	735	752	759	759	760	821

VIII. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING AND REQUESTS FOR FEE WAIVER

A. Requests for Expedited Processing					
	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate	Number Adjudicated Within Ten Calendar Days
NTSB	0	0	N/A	N/A	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	N/A	N/A	0

B. Requests for Fee Waiver				
	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
NTSB	3	1	4	119
AGENCY OVERALL	3	1	4	119

IX. FOIA PERSONNEL AND COSTS

	PERSONNEL			COSTS		
	Number of Full-Time FOIA Employees	Number of Equivalent Full-Time FOIA Employees	Total Number of Full-Time FOIA Staff	Processing Costs	Litigation-Related Costs	Total Costs
NTSB	5	1.00	6.00	$892,457.95	$0.00	$892,457.95
AGENCY OVERALL	5	1.00	6.00	$892,457.95	$0.00	$892,457.95

X. FEES COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS

	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs (Rounded to nearest hundredth decimal)
NTSB	$0.00	0.0000
AGENCY OVERALL	$0.00	0.0000

XI. Exclusion Use and Proactive Disclosures

XI.A. Number of Times Subsection (C) Used	
Agency/Component	Number of Times Subsection Used
NTSB	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0

XI.B. Number of Subsection (A)(2) Postings		
Agency/Component	Number of Records Posted by the FOIA Office	Number of Records Posted by Program Offices
NTSB	40847	1343
AGENCY OVERALL	40847	1343

XII. BACKLOGS, CONSULTATIONS, AND COMPARISONS

A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Administrative Appeals		
	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year
NTSB	507	0
AGENCY OVERALL	507	0

Discuss/Explain the backlog here(Optional)

B. Consultations on FOIA Requests Received, Processed, and Pending Consultations				
	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that Were Pending at Your Agency as of Start of the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that Were Processed by Your Agency During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that Were Pending at Your Agency as of End of the Fiscal Year
NTSB	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0

C. Consultations on FOIA Requests Ten Oldest Consultations Received from Other Agencies and Pending at Your Agency											
		10th Oldest	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Consultation and Number of Days Pending
NTSB	DATE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	NUMBER OF DAYS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	DATE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	NUMBER OF DAYS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

D. Comparison of Numbers of Requests from Previous and Current Annual Report Requests Received, Processed, and Backlogged				
	NUMBER OF REQUESTS RECEIVED		NUMBER OF REQUESTS PROCESSED	
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
NTSB	604	775	512	574
AGENCY OVERALL	604	775	512	574

	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
NTSB	330	507
AGENCY OVERALL	330	507

E. Comparison of Numbers of Administrative Appeals from Previous and Current Annual Report Appeals Received, Processed, and Backlogged				
	NUMBER OF APPEALS RECEIVED		NUMBER OF APPEALS PROCESSED	
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
NTSB	12	19	12	19
AGENCY OVERALL	12	19	12	19

	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
NTSB	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0

F. Discussion of Other FOIA Activities (Optional)