



**Peace Corps**

**2025 Chief FOIA Officer Report**

**Francisco Reinoso  
Chief Freedom of Information Act Officer**

**January 2025**

## **SECTION I: FOIA LEADERSHIP AND APPLYING THE PRESUMPTION OF OPENNESS**

The guiding principle underlying the Attorney General's [FOIA Guidelines](#) is the presumption of openness. The Guidelines also highlight the importance of agency leadership in ensuring effective FOIA administration.

Please answer the following questions about FOIA leadership at your agency and describe the steps your agency has taken to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied to all decisions involving the FOIA.

### **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 Secretary or equivalent level. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(j)(1) (2018). 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.*

Francisco Reinoso, Associate Director for Management.

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?*

The Peace Corps Mission is comprised of three goals:

1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women
2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

The FOIA Office has been an integral part in providing information to the public that demonstrates the Peace Corps Mission. We work with various offices, including the Chief Data Officer, to proactively release reports regarding our Volunteers in service and after service.

### **B. Presumption of Openness**

4. *The Attorney General'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. With respect to these responses, please answer the below questions:*

*a. In addition to tracking the asserted exemption, does your agency specifically track whether a request involved a Glomar response?*

Yes.

*b. If yes, please provide:*

*i. the number of times your agency issued a full or partial Glomar response (separate full and partial if possible);*

0.

*ii. the number of times a Glomar response was issued by exemption.*

0.

*c. If your agency does not track the use of Glomar responses, what would your agency need to do to track in the future? If possible, please describe the resources and time involved.*

This is not applicable (N/A).

*6. Optional -- If there are any other initiatives undertaken by your agency to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied, please describe them here.*

## **SECTION II: ENSURING FAIR AND EFFECTIVE FOIA ADMINISTRATION**

*The Attorney General’s FOIA Guidelines provide that “[e]nsuring fair and effective FOIA administration requires . . . proper training, and a full understanding of FOIA obligations by the entire agency workforce.” The Guidelines reinforce longstanding guidance to “work with FOIA requesters in a spirit of cooperation.” The Attorney General also “urge[s] agency Chief FOIA Officers to undertake comprehensive review of all aspects of their agency’s FOIA administration” as part of ensuring fair and effective FOIA administration.*

## **A. FOIA Training**

1. *The FOIA directs agency Chief FOIA Officers to ensure that FOIA training is offered to agency personnel. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(j)(2)(F). Please describe the efforts your agency has undertaken to ensure proper FOIA training is made available and used by agency personnel.*

The FOIA Officer provides virtual in-briefs to all new political appointees or office leaders. Each briefing is tailored to the leader's responsibilities and subject matter. The FOIA Officer reviews and updates all training material and slide presentations to remain current. The FOIA Officer briefed Peace Corps senior leadership about the FOIA on July 26, 2024, at a Senior Staff Meeting chaired by the Deputy Director.

2. *Did your FOIA professionals or the personnel at your agency who have FOIA responsibilities attend substantive FOIA training during the reporting period such as that 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.*

Staff from both the Peace Corps FOIA Office and the Office of Inspector General attended the following training offered by OIP:

- Virtual Advanced FOIA Training
- Virtual Chief FOIA Officer Report Refresher Training
- Virtual Annual FOIA Report Refresher and Quarterly Report Training
- Virtual Continuity FOIA Education Training
- Virtual Exemption 4 and Exemption 5 Training
- Virtual Privacy Considerations Training
- Virtual Advanced FOIA Training
- Virtual FOIA Compliance and Customer Service Training
- Virtual Administrative Appeals

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.*

All main office staff attended FOIA training. Peace Corps Staff attended FOIA training throughout the year allowing our agency to report 100%.

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 year.*

N/A

*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 and 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 Officer provides specialized training for political appointees, senior office leaders, and the Chief FOIA Officer. We also train each department's FOIA Point of Contact (POC), who facilitates the FOIA records search as a collateral duty. The FOIA Office hosts an intranet FOIA Resource Center page to provide relevant information, web links, and documents to Peace Corps personnel both domestically and overseas. The FOIA Officer briefed Peace Corps senior leadership about the FOIA on July 26, 2024, at a Senior Staff Meeting chaired by the Deputy Director.

The FOIA Officer provides budgetary input to the Chief Administrative Officer each year to request funding for the FOIA program. This includes software for tracking FOIA requests and contractual FOIA support to assist in processing backlogged FOIA cases.

## **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, the FOIA Officer or the assigned analyst will proactively contact the FOIA requester to discuss complex requests to narrow the scope of the request for more efficient processing. For example, the FOIA Officer met with a freelance journalist who supplied a long list of keywords to be searched in e-mail. He explained that the Peace Corps uses a custodial based system preventing a system-wide search. The requester accepted a list of offices, from which he narrowed the search to those offices. The FOIA Officer provided him a list of staff for each office to further narrow the search.

8. *Did your FOIA professionals engage in any outreach or dialogue, outside of the standard request process, with the requester community or open government groups regarding your administration of the FOIA? Please describe any such outreach or dialogue, and, if applicable, any specific examples of how this dialogue has led to improvements in your agency's FOIA administration.*

Our FOIA staff encourages FOIA requesters to contact either the assigned case specialist, or the FOIA Liaison, if there is a question about a pending closure, a final release decision, or clarification about an aspect of the final response, especially regarding withheld information or the records search results. This is intended to help the public achieve a better understanding of the FOIA process. A dissatisfied requester can also coordinate with the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) as a way of mediating with the FOIA Office. An individual can submit an appeal if there is still disagreement after OGIS mediation or submit an appeal without engaging OGIS.

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 2024 (please provide a total number or an estimate of the number).*

One time.

### **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.*

Yes. Each year the FOIA Officer reviews the budget with the Chief Administrative Officer and submits a request for funding. Our agency will be contracting with a vendor to provide an e-Discovery solution the FOIA team will share with the Office of General Counsel. This will increase the efficiency of searching for e-mails and deduplicating responsive records. The Office of Management where the FOIA program resides initiated a call order for two experienced FOIA contractors to process open FOIA requests to reduce our backlog of requests. The Peace Corps authorized a new Government Information Specialist position to assist with the Privacy Program which will allow for more resources for the FOIA program to process requests.

11. *How does your agency use data or processing metrics to ensure efficient management of your FOIA workload? For example, case management reports, staff processing statistics, etc. In addition, please specifically highlight any data analysis methods or technologies used.*

The Peace Corps main FOIA Office prepares weekly metrics and monthly reports for leadership. A monthly metrics meeting is held to discuss trends affecting the Peace Corps

FOIA program. For example, the Peace Corps began receiving voluminous FOIA requests from one specific organization. At this meeting, options were discussed to maintain the efficiency of the program while receiving these voluminous requests. The FOIA Officer holds a weekly meeting with the FOIA team to discuss the workload, provide guidance, and prioritize cases. The FOIA Officer uses the reports feature in FOIAXpress to conduct an internal assessments to track the agency's overall workflow for responding to FOIA records searches. The purpose is to identify gaps, and reduce the overall case time, procedural steps, and the time involved for personnel.

*12. The federal FOIA Advisory Committee, comprised of agency representatives and members of the public, was created to foster dialogue between agencies and the requester community, solicit public comments, and develop recommendations for improving FOIA administration. Since 2020, the FOIA Advisory Committee has issued a number of recommendations. Please answer the below questions:*

- *Is your agency familiar with the FOIA Advisory Committee and its recommendations?*
- *Has your agency implemented any of its recommendations or found them to be helpful? If so, which ones?*

Yes, the Peace Corps is familiar with the FOIA Advisory Committee and its recommendations. One recommendation implemented by the Peace Corps was the Estimated Date of Completion to be included in the Acknowledgement Letters. FOIAXpress automatically calculates that date when selecting the processing track. The template was updated to include that date in each letter sent to the requester.

*13. Optional -- If there are any other initiatives undertaken by your agency to ensure fair and effective FOIA administration, please describe them here.*

N/A.

### **SECTION III: PROACTIVE DISCLOSURES**

*The Attorney General's FOIA Guidelines emphasize that "proactive disclosure of information is . . . fundamental to the faithful application of the FOIA." The Guidelines direct agencies to post "records online quickly and systematically in advance of any public request" and reiterate that agencies should post records "in the most useful, searchable, and open formats possible."*

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

The Peace Corps routinely posts surveys, data, privacy impact assessments, strategic

plans, policies and procedures on our Open Government website. These records may be searched using keywords, document types, topics, countries, or years.

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

Yes

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

Request number, Subject, Requester, Date Received, Date Completed, Final Disposition.

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

Yes.

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

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/about-the-agency/foia/#documents-and-data>

3. *Provide examples of any material 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). Please include links to these materials as well.*

The Peace Corps did not receive any requests that met the threshold for records requested and released three or more times. Our FOIA Library may be located here:

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/about/open-government/foia/#library>

The Peace Corps webmaster posts country impact studies, policies, reports, and statistical information on our Open Government page when an office or department requests a record be posted for public access. An online visitor can organize these into categories based on Report Type, Report Topic, Year, and Countries. The Peace Corps website also makes thousands of pages of general material accessible through the search tool located at the top right of every webpage. The online visitor must enter a key word or term for a query result.

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/about-the-agency/policies-and-publications/reports-and-documents/>

4. *Please provide a link where your agency routinely posts its frequently requested records.*

<https://pal.peacecorps.gov/app/ReadingRoom.aspx>

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? If yes, please provide examples of such improvements. In particular, please describe steps your agency is taking to post information in open, machine-readable, and machine-actionable formats, to the extent feasible. If not posting in open formats, please explain why and note any challenges.*

Yes. The Peace Corps posts its statistical information, country impact studies, survey summaries, policies, and reports on its Open Government page. The information is machine-readable when possible (XML or CSV files). This is led by the agency's Chief Data Officer. The Records Management Officer also gives guidance on machine-readable format in the annual file plan training and written policy. Online material is made available in a timely manner. The Open Government pages are separate from the agency's general website search that is available to the public.

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/about-the-agency/policies-and-publications/reports-and-documents/>

The Office of the Inspector General posts its reports on a separate webpage:

[https://www.peacecorps.gov/about/inspector-general/reports/?\\_ga=2.147505343.92273694.1586781029-1246879747.1577728713](https://www.peacecorps.gov/about/inspector-general/reports/?_ga=2.147505343.92273694.1586781029-1246879747.1577728713)

*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.*

The FOIA Office coordinates with the Office of General Counsel and the Office of External Affairs to provide reviews of some of the agency records considered for proactive disclosure. The Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning collects data for the Peace Corps and proactively posts the results on our Open Government page.

*7. Optional -- Please describe the best practices used to improve proactive disclosures and any challenges your agency faces in this area.*

The Peace Corps is very proactive in routinely posting agency record releases, as seen when searching the website for a topic of interest.

#### **SECTION IV: STEPS TAKE TO GREATER UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY**

*A key component of FOIA administration is using technology to make information available to the public and to gain efficiency in FOIA processing. The Attorney General's FOIA Guidelines emphasize the importance of making FOIA websites easily navigable and complying with the FOIA.gov interoperability requirements. Please answer the following questions to describe how your agency is using technology to improve its FOIA administration and the public's access to information.*

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

Yes.

*2. Please briefly describe any new types of technology your agency began using during the reporting period to support your FOIA program.*

No new types of technology were added. We are still working on adding an e-discovery tool to our FOIA record search process. We anticipate receiving the Authority to Operate (ATO) from our Chief Information Officer in calendar year 2025. The FOIA Officer has been using the training platform to familiarize himself with the tool to conduct FOIA searches for e-mail.

*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.*

The FOIA Office continues to use the online case management system, FOIAXpress, for case management and document review. The online FOIA case management system is linked to our FOIA request portal, Public Access Link (PAL) and the National FOIA Portal. This automatically populates incoming FOIA requests, which saves the Peace Corps time from manually entering requests.

The e-discovery platform will have capabilities to automate record processing such as predictive coding and Boolean search techniques. This automation will assist with standard redactions for personally identifiable information, for example.

*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?*

The Peace Corps reviews the FOIA website throughout the reporting period. All links remain active and accessible. In 2024, the Peace Corps undertook an agency-wide review of all external facing websites. The Peace Corps FOIA website remains compliant with the guidance issued by OIP in 2017.

*5. Did all four of your agency's quarterly reports for Fiscal Year 2024 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 2024.*

N/A.

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 this posting for your agency's Fiscal Year 2023 Annual FOIA Report and, if available, for your agency's Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report.*

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/about/open-government/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.

9. *Optional -- Please describe the best practices used in greater utilizing technology and any challenges your agency faces in this area.*

The Peace Corps faces challenges in the area of e-discovery due to the numerous FOIA requests being filed by one organization. These requests require each individual custodian to manually search their e-mail account. Having an e-discovery solution that has been Authorized to Operate by the Chief Information Officer will allow the Peace Corps to become more efficient with conducting these e-mail searches reducing the amount of time to search and process responsive records within the statutory limit of the FOIA Statute.

## **SECTION V: STEPS TAKEN TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCESS, IMPROVE TIMELINESS IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS, AND REDUCE BACKLOGS**

The Attorney General's FOIA Guidelines instruct agencies "to remove barriers to requesting and accessing government records and to reduce FOIA processing backlogs." Please answer the following questions to describe how your agency is removing barriers to access, improving timeliness in responding to requests, and reducing FOIA backlogs.

### **A. Remove Barriers to Access**

1. *Has your agency established alternative means of access to first-party requested records outside of the FOIA process?*

Yes.

2. *If yes, please provide examples. If no, please indicate why not. Please also indicate if you do not know.*

We created an online portal for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. By creating an

account, they may access their records upon completion of service.

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

N/A

## **B. Timeliness**

4. *For Fiscal Year 2024, 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 2024 Annual FOIA Report.*

4.71 days.

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 2024 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.*

N/A.

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 overall average number of days to process simple requests twenty working days or fewer in Fiscal Year 2024?*

No; 59 days.

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

No.

9. *Please provide the percentage of requests processed by your agency in Fiscal Year 2024 that were placed in your simple track. Please use the following calculation based on the data from your Annual FOIA Report: (processed simple requests from Section VII.C.1) divided by (requests processed from Section V.A.) x 100.*

38.36%

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?*

N/A.

## **C. Backlogs**

### **BACKLOGGED REQUESTS**

11. *If your agency had a backlog of requests at the close of Fiscal Year 2024, 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 2023?*

Yes.

12. *If not, according to Annual FOIA Report Section XII.D.1, did your agency process more requests during Fiscal Year 2024 than it did during Fiscal Year 2023?*

N/A.

13. *If your agency's request backlog increased during Fiscal Year 2024, please explain why and describe the causes that contributed to your agency not being able to reduce its backlog. When doing so, please also indicate if any of the following were contributing factors:*

N/A.

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 2024. Please use the following calculation based on data from your Annual FOIA Report: (backlogged requests from Section XII.A) divided by (requests received from Section V.A) x 100. This number can be greater than 100%. If your agency has no request backlog, please answer with "N/A."*

10.94%

### **BACKLOGGED APPEALS**

15. *If your agency had a backlog of appeals at the close of Fiscal Year 2024, 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 2023?*

We did not have an appeal backlog at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

16. *If not, according to section XII.E.1 of the Annual FOIA Report, did your agency process more appeals during Fiscal Year 2024 than it did during Fiscal Year 2023?*

N/A.

17. *If your agency's appeal backlog increased during Fiscal Year 2024, please explain why and describe the causes that contributed to your agency not being able to reduce its backlog. When doing so, please also indicate if any of the following were contributing factors:*

N/A.

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 2024. Please use the following calculation based on data from your Annual FOIA Report: (backlogged appeals from Section XII.A) divided by (appeals received from Section VI.A) x 100. This number can be greater than 100%. If your agency did not receive any appeals in Fiscal Year 2024 and/or has no appeal backlog, please answer with "N/A."*

N/A.

#### **D. Backlog Reduction Plans**

19. *In the 2024 guidelines for Chief FOIA Officer Reports, any agency with a backlog of over 1000 requests in Fiscal Year 2023 was 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 2024?*

N/A. We did not have a backlog of more than 1,000 requests.

20. *If your agency had a backlog of more than 1,000 requests in Fiscal Year 2024, please explain your agency's plan to reduce this backlog during Fiscal Year 2025.*

N/A. We did not have a backlog of more than 1,000 requests.

#### **E. Reducing the Age of Requests, Appeals, and Consultations**

##### **TEN OLDEST REQUESTS**

21. *In Fiscal Year 2024, did your agency close the ten oldest pending perfected requests that were reported in Section VII.E. of your Fiscal Year 2023 Annual FOIA Report?*

No, we did not close all of the ten oldest perfected requests reported for that year.

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 2023 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest requests to close, please indicate that.*

The Peace Corps closed seven of the top ten oldest pending perfected requests.

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

We have reviewed the more complex cases with a larger volume of pages to ensure the record content is responsive to the request. We continue to dialogue with some

requestors to seek clarification on broad requests, and to reduce the scope, if possible. Once the e-discovery platform receives the Approval to Operate, the tool will allow for automated processing of PII and deduplication. Finally, several of these requests required consultation with other government agencies since the records contained the equity of these agencies. We continue to check the status of these requests to bring them to conclusion.

## **TEN OLDEST APPEALS**

*24. In Fiscal Year 2024, did your agency close the ten oldest appeals that were reported pending in Section VI.C.5 of your Fiscal Year 2023 Annual FOIA Report?*

There were no pending appeals in FY 2023 or FY 2024

*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 2023 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest appeals to close, please indicate that.*

N/A.

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

N/A.

## **TEN OLDEST CONSULTATIONS**

*27. In Fiscal Year 2024, 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, the 1 consultation reported as pending in the FY 2023 report was closed.

*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.*

N/A.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING TEN OLDEST**

*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 2025.*

The Peace Corps has a term-limit for most of its staff which causes constant turnover in

the FOIA Office. The FOIA Officer position received an exemption under the Farr-Castle Act to provide more stability in the office. This exemption will permit the individual occupying the position to be renewed every five years. The Peace Corps is in the process to hire an Associate Privacy Officer to reduce the Privacy burden for the FOIA Officer. We are also planning to hire a new contractor team with extensive FOIA experience to process the voluminous backlog cases that make up the ten oldest pending requests.

#### **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.*

N/A.