



# Open Government Public Engagement Session

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Counter Corruption and Ensure Government  
Integrity and Accountability to the Public

September 26, 2023

# Agenda

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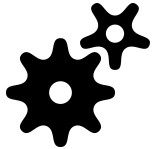
**Open Q & A**

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# Past Meetings & Engagement Rules



Live Now! The July 12th, July 20th, July 27th, and August 16th engagement session materials, including videos, are available [here](#)



The beta commitment tracker is live now available [here](#)



Please use chat or the “raise hand” function to engage today

# Open Government Secretariat Updates

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1. As a sign of this Administration's commitment to Open Government, I am very pleased to announce that my team is growing! As of today, we have 6 people (including myself) fully dedicated to this effort. Our hope is to be able to quickly ramp up our activities as well as increasing the quantity and quality of our public engagement sessions, and helping to reenergize the US Multi-Stakeholder Form.
2. We received approval from the GSA Office of Strategic Communications to post the recorded videos of the GSA hosted public engagement sessions. You can find each meeting recording both embedded under its related [Meeting Record](#), as well as on the GSA flagship YouTube channel under the [Open Government Playlist](#).

# Facilitator Biographies

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**Laura Szakmary**  
ITDT Engagement  
Lead, Office of  
Government-wide  
Policy, GSA



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ITDT Policy Lead,  
Office of  
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**Daniel W. York**  
Director of IT Data  
Transparency, Office  
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GSA



**Lindsay Steel**  
Chief, Compliance Staff  
Office of Information  
Policy  
U.S. Department of  
Justice

# NAP 5 Theme Overview

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## *Counter Corruption and Ensure Government Integrity and Accountability to the Public*

- Implement Open Government Components of a New Government-Wide Strategy on Countering Corruption
- Revitalize the United States' National Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct
- Bolster Trust in Government through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking
- Bolster the Trust and Independence of Federal Statistical Agencies and Federal Statistics
- Invest in Core Federal Management Functions for Payment Integrity
- Manage Federal Funding with Accountability, Transparency, and Stewardship
- Affirm the Independence of Federal Inspectors General
- Collaborate with the Council of the Inspectors General and the Oversight Community
- Support Strong Whistleblower Protections
- Strengthening Access to Government Information through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Ensure Public Accountability and Transparency Among Administration Officials
- Strengthen Agency Procurement Forecasts to Achieve Stronger Transparency in Future Contract Opportunities
- Continue Implementing the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal.

# Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Often described as a means for the public to know “what their Government is up to.”

## Key provisions:

- Requires agencies to proactively disclose key information, including frequently requested records.
- Affords any member of the public the right to request access to government records, along with rights to administrative and judicial review.  
Delineates discrete categories of information that are exempt from mandatory release.

Over 100 agencies are subject to the FOIA and are required to:

- Designate a Chief FOIA Officer at the Assistant Secretary level or equivalent
- Maintain their own FOIA website
- Establish procedures for processing requests and appeals
- Make proactive disclosures

# Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Information Policy (OIP)

OIP's mission is to encourage and oversee agency compliance with the FOIA. We accomplish this by:

- Developing government-wide [policy guidance](#) on all aspects of FOIA administration;
- Providing [legal counsel](#) and training to agency personnel, including [real-time](#), [on-demand](#), and [agency-specific](#) training courses;
- Publishing a range of resources, including the [DOJ Guide to the FOIA](#), [Court Decision summaries](#), [Exemption 3](#) resources, and [Self-Assessment Toolkit](#); and,
- Overseeing agency compliance with FOIA reporting requirements, including the [Annual FOIA Report](#), [Quarterly Reports](#), and [Chief FOIA Officers Reports](#), and publishing [summaries](#) and [assessments](#) of these reports.
- Administering the National FOIA Portal on [FOIA.gov](#), including overseeing agency compliance with the [interoperability requirements](#).

OIP also manages the DOJ's obligations under FOIA, including adjudicating administrative appeals of access determinations made by DOJ components, handling initial requests for records for senior management offices, and completing the annual [DOJ FOIA Litigation and Compliance Report](#).



# FOIA Commitment Updates

## 139.1, 139.2, and 139.3

# Strengthening Implementation of FOIA

Agency: Department of Justice - Office of Information Policy		
#	Commitment Description	Progress Narrative
<a href="#">139.1</a>	Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Justice commits to the following additional steps to bolster openness and transparency through the FOIA... Issuance of an updated FOIA Self-Assessment Toolkit, originally issued in 2017, to reflect, among other things, additional milestones for proactive disclosures, use of technology, and requirements of the Attorney General's new FOIA Guidelines.	On March 9, 2023 the Department of Justice released an updated FOIA self-assessment toolkit. It can be accessed here:  <a href="https://www.justice.gov/oip/blog/updated-foia-self-assessment-toolkit-now-available">https://www.justice.gov/oip/blog/updated-foia-self-assessment-toolkit-now-available</a>

# Strengthening Implementation of FOIA

## Agency: Department of Justice - Office of Information Policy

#	Commitment Description	Progress Narrative
<a href="#">139.2</a>	<p>Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Justice commits to the following additional steps to bolster openness and transparency through the FOIA... Leading a Chief FOIA Officer Council working group that will collaborate with the Office of Government Information Services at the National Archives and Records Administration, the Office of Shared Services &amp; Performance Improvement at the Government Services Administration, and the Business Standards Council to develop shared FOIA business standards. The shared business standards will make it easier for agencies to acquire FOIA technology and, in turn, improve efficiency and consistency in processing requests across the Federal Government.</p>	<p>The Chief FOIA Officer Council's established a working group to finalize standard business functions and capabilities for FOIA case management. Our progress is being publicly tracked here:</p> <p><a href="https://ussm.gsa.gov/fibf/#end-to-end-business-table">https://ussm.gsa.gov/fibf/#end-to-end-business-table</a></p>

# Strengthening Implementation of FOIA

Agency: Department of Justice - Office of Information Policy		
#	Commitment Description	Progress Narrative
<a href="#">139.3</a>	Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Justice commits to the following additional steps to bolster openness and transparency through the FOIA... Enhancement of the user experience on FOIA.gov, the Federal Government's central website for FOIA, by developing an interactive tool to help members of the public more easily locate records that are already available online or find the right agency to submit their FOIA requests when information is not already posted online.	After a robust discovery phase, OIP is now in a development phase aimed at releasing an initial product on FOIA.gov this fall. After release, OIP plans to continue to refine the tool and improve its functionality based on user feedback.

# Preview of FOIA.gov Interactive Tool

Learn about FOIA ▾ Before you request ▾ Create a request Agency FOIA data ▾ CFO Council ▾ Agency login

**The basic function of the Freedom of Information Act is to ensure informed citizens, vital to the functioning of a democratic society.**

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This site can help you determine if filing a FOIA request is the best option for you and help you create your request when you're ready.

**Start your FOIA journey**

- Learn about the FOIA process
- Use our search tool to find public records or the correct agency**
- Start a request with a specific agency

The screenshot shows the FOIA.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: 'Learn about FOIA', 'Before you request', 'Create a request', 'Agency FOIA data', 'CFO Council', and 'Agency login'. The main content area features a large blue box with white text explaining the purpose of the Freedom of Information Act. Below this, there is a section titled 'Start your FOIA journey' with three light blue buttons. The middle button, 'Use our search tool to find public records or the correct agency', is highlighted with a red border. The background of the page is a photograph of a classical building with columns.

# Preview of FOIA.gov Interactive Tool

## Let's dive in...

What information are you looking for?

Please enter one to two sentences describing what you're searching for, including relevant keywords.

Include as much specific information as possible in the search box, such as the date, title or name, author, recipient, subject matter of the record, case number, file designation, or reference number.

If you don't receive the desired results, consider adding more context to your query to provide more accurate results.

Enter search terms

Or choose a common topic

Immigration or Travel records

Tax records

Social Security records

Medical records

Personnel records

Military records

Select a common topic

# Preview of FOIA.gov Interactive Tool – Common Topic

Okay, you're looking for:

"Your own immigration or travel records"

Select the type of immigration or travel record you are seeking from the list below:

- A-File
- A-Number
- Naturalization Certificate
- Records of apprehension, detention, deportation, legal international travel, illegal attempted entry, expedited removal, voluntary removal, or inspections by Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Student and Exchange Visitor System records, medical or other records while someone was detained, bond obligator and investigation records by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- International travel records, including Global Entry and travel history
- Domestic travel records
- Passenger Name Records, which contains certain travel reservation data on individuals
- Visa records
- Passport records
- Correction to Global Entry records
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Pre-Check Program
- Record of Proceeding (ROP)
- None of the above (I want to start over)

Next

Select a type of record

# Preview of FOIA.gov Interactive Tool – Common Topic

## 1) Identify the agency

## 2) Confirm you want to continue the request process

## 3) See tips for writing your request

Okay, you're looking for:

"Visa records"

To request visa records, submit a FOIA request to the Department of State.

Can we help you with anything else?

- Yes, I would like to refine my search.
- Yes, I would like to browse the full list of agencies.
- Yes, I would like to go back to the FOIA.gov home page.
- No.

U.S. Department of State >  
Department of State

### Agency mission

The Department's mission is to advance freedom for the benefit of the American people and the international community by helping to build and sustain a more democratic, secure, and prosperous world composed of well-governed states that respond to the needs of their people, reduce widespread poverty, and act responsibly within the international system.

[FOIA Reference Guide](#)

[FOIA Regulations](#)

### Contact

 [FOIA Requester Service Center](#)  
202-261-8484

 Kellie N. Robinson, Chief, Requester Liaison  
Division, FOIA Program Manager/FOIA Public  
Liaison  
202-261-8484  
[foiastatus@state.gov](mailto:foiastatus@state.gov)

 Office of Information Programs and Services  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520  
[foiarequest@state.gov](mailto:foiarequest@state.gov)

Before you start your request, here are a few tips for writing your request.

The description of the records you are requesting is important. The scope of your request can impact how quickly an agency can respond to your request. Your description should:

- Be as clear and specific as possible
- Include date ranges, if applicable
- Provide enough detail so that the agency can determine which records are being requested and locate them with a reasonable amount of effort.

Start FOIA request

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61 wor

The recor

looking fo

Visit th

To see what's been made available, you can visit an agency's FOIA library.

Continue the FOIA request process

Request directions Agency information

U.S. Department of State  
Department of State

Contact information

Your request


Additional information

Fees

Request expedited processing

Review and submit

Tips for submitting

The person to reach out to about your FOIA request is:  
 [FOIA Requester Service Center](#)  
202-261-8484

### Make your request

Step 1 of 6

Contact information

This information is needed so the agency knows where to send the response to your FOIA request. Please note that not all of these fields are required.

First name

Last name

Your organization

Email address  
In order for us to communicate with you about your request, you must provide at least one form of contact information.

## 4) Complete request and submit!



# Preview of FOIA.gov Interactive Tool – Common Topic

## 1) Select topic

Okay, you're looking for:

"Military records"

Are you seeking records regarding current or former military servicemembers?

Current active duty or reserve military servicemembers' records

Retired or former military servicemember records

Next

## 2) Select record type

Okay, you're looking for:

"Someone else's retired or former military servicemember records"

Select the type of military record you are seeking from the list below:

Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)

Medical records

DD Form 214 (Report of Separation)

Veteran's Benefits

National Guard records

None of the above (I want to start over)

Next

## 3) Learn how to access the information outside of FOIA

Okay, you're looking for:

"Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)"

If you are next-of-kin of a deceased Veteran, you can request Official Military Personnel Files using the eVetRecs online request form. [↗](#)

For all others, your request is best made using Standard Form 180. [↗](#)

Visit the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) website for additional information about locating former servicemembers' records. [↗](#)

The following agencies may also have the records you seek:

National Archives and Records Administration - National Personnel Records Center - Military

# Preview of FOIA.gov Interactive Tool - Enter Search Terms

## 1) Enter search terms

Let's dive in...

What information are you looking for?  
Please enter one to two sentences describing what you're searching for with relevant keywords.

Include as much specific information as possible in the search box, such as name, author, recipient, subject matter of the record, case number, or reference number.

If you don't receive the desired results, consider adding more context to provide more accurate results.

## 2) Review public information

Okay, you're looking for:

"JFK assassination records"

We found the following public information:

- National Archives  
John F. Kennedy (JFK) Assassination Records Collection
- Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Robert F Kennedy (Assassination)
- National Archives  
Memorandums from AOTUS to POTUS concerning the JFK Assassination Collection Act, 2018
- Federal Bureau of Investigation  
John F. Kennedy Jr.

## 3) If needed, identify agency to submit request

If the information above is not what you're looking for, the following agencies may have it.

Click each agency to learn more or to submit a FOIA request.

- Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Customs & Border Protection
- National Archives and Records Administration
- American Battle Monuments Commission

# Open Discussion – Q&A

# Thank You!

For more information:

<https://open.usa.gov/>

To Reach us:

[opengovernmentsecretariat@gsa.gov](mailto:opengovernmentsecretariat@gsa.gov)