

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Federal Open Market Committee
February 11, 1999

The following information is submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice by the Federal Open Market Committee (Committee) in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552(e)) (FOIA), as amended.

I. Basic Information Regarding Report

- A. The Committee's contact person for questions about this report is Susanne K. Mitchell, Manager Freedom of Information Office, Mail Stop 132, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20551; Tel: 202-452-3684; TDD only: 202-452-3544; FAX: 202-872-7565.
- B. Electronic address for this report on the Board's World Wide Web site:
http://www.federalreserve.gov/generalinfo/foia/anrpt_1998.htm
- C. A paper copy of this report may be obtained by downloading it from the Board's Web site (see I.B. above) or requesting it from the Board's Freedom of Information Office (Tel: 202-452-3684) (see I.A. above).

II. How to Make a FOIA Request

- A. The Federal Open Market Committee does not have individual agency components or offices that receive FOIA requests; all requests may be made to Mr. Donald L. Kohn, Secretary of the Committee, c/o Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20551 (Tel: 202-452-3761) or to the Board's contact person (see I.A. above).
- B. The Committee tries diligently to comply with the statutory time period for responding to FOIA requests. All of the 12 simple requests processed during the fiscal year 1998 and all but one of the 3 complex requests were responded to within the 20 working days provided by the FOIA.
- C. Some FOIA requests are granted in part or not granted because the information requested falls within a FOIA exemption or certain exclusions. The types of information that the Committee most often withheld involved privileged or confidential commercial or financial information (Exemption 4), and certain interagency and intra-agency predecisional deliberative communications (Exemption 5). All information withheld was carefully reviewed for compliance with the requirement in subsection (b) of the FOIA to reasonably segregate nondisclosable information and with policy guidance from the U.S. Department of Justice.

III. Definition of Terms and Acronyms Used in the Report.

A. Agency-specific acronyms or other terms.

1. Committee -- Federal Open Market Committee
2. FOIA -- Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552)
3. FY -- Fiscal year which covers the period from October 1 to September 30

IV. Exemption 3 statutes

The Board did not rely on an Exemption 3 statute during FY 1998.

V. Initial FOIA Access Requests.

A. Numbers of initial requests.

1. Number of requests pending as of end of FY 1997: 1
2. Number of requests received during FY 1998: 15
3. Number of requests processed during FY 1998: 16
4. Number of requests pending as of end of FY 1998: 0

B. Disposition of initial requests.

1. Number of total grants: 12
2. Number of partial grants: 4
3. Number of denials: 1
 - a. number of times each FOIA exemption used (counting each exemption once per request)

Exemption 6: 5

4. Other reasons for nondisclosure (total): 5
 - a. no records: 4
 - b. referrals: 0
 - c. request withdrawn: 0

- d. fee-related reason: 0
- e. records not reasonably described: 0
- f. not a proper FOIA request for some other reason: 0
- g. not an agency record: 3
- h. duplicate request: 0
- i. other (specify): 0

VI. Appeals of Initial Denials of FOIA/PA Requests

A. Number of appeals.

- 1. Number of appeals received during FY 1998: 0
- 2. Number of appeals processed FY 1998: 1 (relating to a FY 1997 denial)

B. Disposition of appeals.

- 1. Number completely upheld: 1
- 2. Number partially reversed: 0
- 3. Number completely reversed: 0
 - a. number of times each FOIA exemption used (counting each exemption once per appeal)

Exemption 6: 1

VII. Compliance with Time Limits/Status of Pending Requests

A. Median processing time for requests processed during FY 1998.

- 1. Simple requests
 - a. number of requests processed: 15
 - b. median number of calendar days to process: 8

2. Complex requests.
 - a. number of requests processed: 1
 - b. median number of calendar days to process: 30
3. Requests accorded expedited processing.
 - a. number of requests processed: 0
 - b. median number of calendar days to process: 0

B. Status of pending requests.

1. Number of requests pending as of end of FY 1998: 0
(entered from Line V.a.4.)
2. Median number of calendar days that such request were pending as of that date: 0

VIII. Cost/FOIA Staffing

A. Staffing levels.

1. Number of full-time FOIA personnel: 0
2. Number of personnel with part-time or occasional FOIA duties (in total work-years):
0.3
3. Total number of personnel (in work-years): 0.3

B. Total costs (including staff and all resources).

1. FOIA processing (including appeals): \$25,000
2. Litigation-related activities (estimated): 0
3. Total costs: \$25,000
4. Comparison with previous year(s) (including percentage of change) (optional):

This information will be provided in future reports, as appropriate, using comparable reporting periods and reported statistics.

C. Statement of additional resources needed for FOIA compliance (optional):

This information will be provided in future reports, as appropriate.

IX. Fees

A. Total amount of fees collected by agency for processing requests: 0

B. Percentage of total costs: 0

X. FOIA Regulations (Including Fee Schedule)

The Committee's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, including the fee schedule, are codified at 12 CFR Part 271.