VFOIA Annual Report FY22

“...balance the County’s commitment to transparency and openness, while ensuring the protection of the County’s privacy and security interests. ...” – Countywide FOIA Policy

**FOIA REQUESTS**

**Average Response Time**

2 business days

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) requires public bodies to respond to FOIA requests within 5 business days.

**Total Requests**

16,160

Fairfax County tracks FOIA requests received by all Fairfax County agencies with the VFOIA Tracker application.

**Records Released in Full**

57%

VFOIA contains exemptions that allow agencies to withhold exempt information. Other laws require that Fairfax County withhold certain information.

**Request Examples**

- 911 Calls and Police Reports
- Fire/EMS Incident Reports
- Contractor Bids and Proposals
- Environmental Inspections
- County Employee Salary Information
- COVID Vaccination and Outbreak Data
- Social Media Information
- Emails and Text Messages
- Voter Registration Information

**High Volume Agencies**

- Police: 7284
- Fire: 2975
- Land Development Services: 1582
- Health: 1418
- Public Safety Communications: 665
- Code Compliance: 444
- Family Services: 441
- Planning and Development: 332
- OPA FOIA Office: 258
- Elections: 163
- Tax Administration: 114
- Human Resources: 111

**Requesters**

- VA Residents, 47%
- Non-VA Residents, 50%
- Media, 3%

Contact Us:

- FOIA@fairfaxcounty.gov
- 703-324-2639, TTY 711
- www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/foia
VFOIA allows Fairfax County to assess reasonable, actual costs related to processing FOIA requests.

Per County policy, waivers should be considered when the total cost of the FOIA request is less than $50.

- On average, the County received 58 requests per working day.
- FCPD Payment Portal application launched in April 2022.
- The Office of Public Affairs managed 624 FOIA requests.

Fairfax County agencies processed 25% more FOIA requests in FY22 than in FY21. (12,840)

89% of FOIA responses were sent via e-mail, and 11% were distributed in-person, over the phone, via fax or by letter.

More FOIAs were received in March (1,574) than in any other month.

$2,956.15 was the highest paid FOIA fee.

The Office of Public Affairs and the County Attorney’s office conducted 21 FOIA trainings.