

**National Credit Union Administration**  
Annual Freedom of Information Act Report  
for  
Fiscal Year 2019

The following Annual Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) report covers the period 10/01/2018 through 9/30/2019, except as indicated below for Part XII of the report, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552. The URL for this report is: <https://www.ncua.gov/foia/annual-reports>.

## **I. BASIC INFORMATION REGARDING REPORT**

1. If you have any questions regarding this report, you may contact Regina Metz, Senior Attorney Advisor, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, (703) 518-6540.
2. The report is available online at <https://www.ncua.gov/foia/annual-reports>. You can click on hyperlinked terms to link directly to the corresponding documents on the NCUA website.
3. The report is available for public inspection and copying, provided at its duplication cost, and in an electronic format. You may obtain copies of this report by making a request to the NCUA, Office of General Counsel, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314–2387, Attn: FOIA Officer; by e-mailing [FOIA@ncua.gov](mailto:FOIA@ncua.gov); or by printing the report from the above link on the NCUA website at [www.ncua.gov](http://www.ncua.gov).

## **II. MAKING A FOIA REQUEST**

You can consult the NCUA website for information on how to submit a FOIA request and FOIA frequently asked questions. This information is available on the website at “How to Submit a FOIA Request” (<https://www.ncua.gov/foia/how-submit-foia-request>) and “FOIA Frequently Asked Questions” (<https://www.ncua.gov/foia/frequently-asked-questions>), or you can request copies from the Office of General Counsel by calling (703) 518-6540.

1. FOIA requests may be submitted to one of two NCUA offices, both of which are located at 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3428. For records maintained by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), direct your request to the OIG at the above address. You may also send a request to the OIG by facsimile at (703) 518-6349, or by e-mail to [OIGmail@ncua.gov](mailto:OIGmail@ncua.gov). For all other requests, submit your request to the Freedom of Information Act Officer, Office of General Counsel (OGC), at the above address. You may also send these FOIA requests by facsimile to (703) 518-6569 or by e-mail to [FOIA@ncua.gov](mailto:FOIA@ncua.gov).
2. Brief Description of why some requests are not granted:

Generally, exempt information includes credit union examination reports; records, which if released, would cause an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; confidential proprietary business information; internal communications regarding proposed NCUA policies; and law enforcement investigative records.

### III. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS USED IN THE REPORT

1. No agency-specific acronyms or terms are used in this report.
2. The following are 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).
3. The following are 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:** interagency 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. Agency Component Abbreviations

Component Abbreviation	

**IV. EXEMPTION 3 STATUTES**

Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Agency / Component	Number of Times Relied upon by Agency / Component	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency Overall
N/A	N/A	N/A	NCUA	0	0

**V.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED AND PENDING FOIA REQUESTS**

Agency / Component				

**V.B.(1). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- ALL PROCESSED REQUESTS**

Agency / Component	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									TOTAL
				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 Agency Record	Duplicate Request	Other *Explain in Chart Below	
NCUA	50	66	9	10	0	5	0	2	2	4	0	0	148
													0
AGENCY OVERALL	50	66	9	10	0	5	0	2	2	4	0	0	148



**V.B.(2). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- "OTHER" REASONS FOR "FULL DENIALS  
BASED ON REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS"**

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denials from Chart B(1)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
NCUA	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

**V.B.(3). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED**

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
NCUA	0	6	0	28	17	59	5	0	12	0	10	0	36	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	6	0	28	17	59	5	0	12	0	10	0	36	0

**VI.A. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**

Agency / Component				

**VI.B. DISPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS -- ALL PROCESSED APPEALS**

Agency / Component					





**VI.C.(3). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- "OTHER" REASONS**

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denial on Appeal from Chart C(2)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
NCUA	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

**VI.C.(4). RESPONSE TIME FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**

Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
AGENCY OVERALL	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00





**VII.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR ALL PROCESSED PERFECTED REQUESTS**

Agency / Component	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
AGENCY OVERALL	8	9.37	<1	30	43	66.46	4	333	2.5	19.83	<1	96

**VII.B. PROCESSED REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR PERFECTED REQUESTS IN WHICH INFORMATION WAS GRANTED**

Agency / Component	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
AGENCY OVERALL	8.5	9.61	<1	30	47	69.95	4	333	2	25.25	<1	96



**VII.C. PROCESSED COMPLEX REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS**

Agency / Component	<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
NCUA	19	28	15	6	7	6	2	3	3	1	4	1	0	95
														0
AGENCY OVERALL	19	28	15	6	7	6	2	3	3	1	4	1	0	95



**VII.D. PENDING REQUESTS -- ALL PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS**

Agency / Component	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
AGENCY OVERALL	1	6	6	18	12	14.67	0	N/A	N/A

**VII.E. PENDING REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS**

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Request	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request
	Date of Receipt										
	Number of Days Pending										
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Receipt	2019-09-12	2019-09-12	2019-09-11	2019-09-10	2019-09-09	2019-09-05	2019-08-29	2019-08-22	2019-08-21	2019-07-22
	Number of Days Pending	12	12	13	14	15	17	21	26	27	49



**VIII.A. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING**

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate	Number Adjudicated Within Ten Calendar Days
AGENCY OVERALL	5	1	1	3	5

**VIII.B. REQUESTS FOR FEE WAIVER**

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	N/A	N/A

**IX. FOIA PERSONNEL AND COSTS**

Agency / Component	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
NCUA	0	2.23	2.23	\$422,697.00	\$0.00	\$422,697.00
			0			\$0.00
AGENCY OVERALL	0	2.23	2.23	\$422,697.00	\$0.00	\$422,697.00

**X. FEES COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS**

Agency / Component	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
NCUA	\$169.00	0.04%
AGENCY OVERALL	\$169.00	0.04%

**XI.A. NUMBER OF TIMES SUBSECTION (C) USED**

Agency / Component	Number of Times Subsection Used
NCUA	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
NCUA	5	647
AGENCY OVERALL	5	647

**XII.A. BACKLOGS OF FOIA REQUESTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year
NCUA	1	0
AGENCY OVERALL	1	0

**XII.B. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING CONSULTATIONS**

Agency / Component	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were <u>Pending</u> at the Agency as of <u>Start</u> of the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations <u>Received</u> from Other Agencies During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were <u>Processed</u> by the Agency During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were <u>Pending</u> at the Agency as of <u>End</u> of the Fiscal Year
NCUA	0	1	1	0
				0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	1	1	0





**XII.D.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- REQUESTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED**

Agency / Component	NUMBER OF REQUESTS <u>RECEIVED</u>		NUMBER OF REQUESTS <u>PROCESSED</u>	
	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
NCUA	165	148	154	148
AGENCY OVERALL	165	148	154	148

**XII.D.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED REQUESTS**

Agency / Component	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
NCUA	12	1
AGENCY OVERALL	12	1

**XII.E.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- APPEALS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED**

Agency / Component	NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>RECEIVED</u>		NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>PROCESSED</u>	
	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
NCUA	2	2	2	2
AGENCY OVERALL	2	2	2	2

**XII.E.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED APPEALS**

Agency / Component	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
NCUA	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0