

**National Credit Union Administration**  
Annual Freedom of Information Act Report  
for  
Fiscal Year 2012

The following Annual Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) report covers the Period 10/01/2011 through 09/30/2012, except as indicated below for Part XII of the report, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552. The URL for this report is: <http://www.ncua.gov/Resources/FOIA/Pages/FOIARpts.aspx>.

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

1. If you have any questions regarding this report, you may contact Regina Metz, Staff Attorney, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, (703) 518-6540.
2. The report is available on-line at <http://www.ncua.gov>. You can click on any hyperlinked term to link directly to the corresponding document on the NCUA website.
3. To obtain a copy of this report in paper form, you may come to the NCUA reading room located in room 6076B, at 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3428, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or call (703) 518-6540 to request that a copy be sent to you.

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

You can consult the publication entitled, "A Handbook for Obtaining Information from NCUA" for information on making a FOIA request. The Handbook is available on the Internet at <http://www.ncua.gov/Resources/Documents/FOIA/FOIAHandbook.pdf>, or you can request a copy from the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs by calling (703) 518-6330.

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 at the above address. You may also send such 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:** inter-agency 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

**IV. EXEMPTION 3 STATUTES**

- 1. NCUA relied on no Exemption 3 statutes during the current fiscal year.

<b>Statute</b>	<b>Type of Information Withheld</b>	<b>Case Citation</b>	<b>Number of Times Relied Upon</b>	<b>Total Number of Times Relied Upon</b>
31 U.S.C. 5319	Reports pertaining to monetary instruments transactions filed under subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31 and records of those reports	Hulstein v. DEA, No. 10-4112, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 25788, at *7-8 (N.D. Iowa Mar. 11, 2011); Berger v. IRS, 487 F. Supp. 2d 482, 496-97 (D.N.J. 2007), aff'd on other grounds, 288 F. App'x	2	2

		829 (3d Cir. 2008), cert. denied, 129 S. Ct. 2789 (U.S. 2009); Sciba v. Bd. of Governors of the Fed. Reserve Sys., No. 04- 1011, 2005 WL 3201206, at *6 (D.D.C. Nov. 4, 2005).		
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**V. FOIA REQUESTS**

A. Received, Processed and Pending FOIA Requests

	<b>Number of Requests Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Requests Received in Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Requests Processed in Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Requests Pending as of End of Fiscal Year</b>
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	15	130	136	9

B.(1) Disposition of FOIA Requests – All Processed Requests

	Number	Number	Number of	Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions	
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	of Full Grants	of Partial Grants/ Partial Denials	Full Denials Based on 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	
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	57	46	20	3	0	5	0	1	2	1	1	0	136

B.(2) Disposition of FOIA Requests – “Other” Reasons for “Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions” from Section V, B(1) Chart

<b>Component</b>	<b>Description of “Other” Reasons for Denials from Chart B(1) &amp; Number of Times Those Reasons Were Relied Upon</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	There were no “other” reasons for full denials at the close of the fiscal year.	0

B.(3) Disposition of FOIA Requests – Number of Times Exemptions Applied

	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

<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	0	0	2	27	20	33	1	0	1	0	2	0	31	0
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**VI. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS**

A. Received, Processed and Pending Administrative Appeals

<b>Number of Appeals Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Appeals Received in Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Appeals Processed in Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Appeals Pending as of End of Fiscal Year</b>
1	7	8	0

B. Disposition of Administrative Appeals – All Processed Appeals

<b>Number Affirmed on Appeal</b>	<b>Number Partially Affirmed &amp; Partially Reversed on Appeal</b>	<b>Number Completely Reversed on Appeal</b>	<b>Number of Appeals Closed for Other Reasons</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
5	2	1	0	8

C.(1) Reasons for Denial on Appeal – Number of Times Exemptions Applied

<b>Ex. 1</b>	<b>Ex. 2</b>	<b>Ex. 3</b>	<b>Ex. 4</b>	<b>Ex. 5</b>	<b>Ex. 6</b>	<b>Ex. 7(A)</b>	<b>Ex. 7(B)</b>	<b>Ex. 7(C)</b>	<b>Ex. 7(D)</b>	<b>Ex. 7(E)</b>	<b>Ex. 7(F)</b>	<b>Ex. 8</b>	<b>Ex. 9</b>
0	0	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0

C.(2) Reasons for Denial on Appeal – Reasons Other than Exemptions

No Records	Records Referred at Initial Request Level	Request Withdrawn	Fee-Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper Request for Other Reasons	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request or Appeal	Request in Litigation	Appeal Based Solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing	Other
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

C.(3) Reasons for Denial on Appeal – “Other” Reasons from Section VI, C(2) Chart

Description of “Other” Reasons for Denial on Appeal from Chart C(2) & Number of Times Those Reasons Were Relied Upon	TOTAL
There were no “other” reasons for denying an appeal at the close of the fiscal year.	0

C.(4) Response Time for Administrative Appeals

Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
16	15	6	20

C.(5) Ten Oldest Pending Administrative Appeals

There were two administrative appeals pending at the close of the fiscal year.

	10 <sup>th</sup> Oldest Appeal	9 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Oldest Appeal
<b>Date of Receipt of Ten Oldest Appeals</b>										
<b>Number of Days Pending</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**VII. FOIA REQUESTS: RESPONSE TIME FOR PROCESSED AND PENDING REQUESTS**

A. Processed Requests – Response Time for All Processed Perfected Requests

	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
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	13	18.52	0	129	150	159.54	13	345	11	11	11	11

B. Processed Requests – Response Time for Perfected Requests in Which Information Was Granted

	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
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	13	19.66	0	129	213.5	190.15	18	345	11	11	11	11

C. Processed Requests – Response Time in Day Increments

**Simple Requests**

	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
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	78	18	8	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	109

### Complex Requests

	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
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	2	2	6	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	6	5	0	26

### Requests Granted Expedited Processing

	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
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

D. Pending Requests – All Pending Perfected Requests

	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
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	3	13	11.66	4	90.5	106.5	1	123	123

E. Pending Requests – Ten Oldest Pending Perfected Requests

	10 <sup>th</sup> Oldest Request and Number of Days Pending	9 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Oldest Request and Number of Days Pending
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	Date: N/A	Date: N/A	Date: 9/25/12	Date: 9/11/12	Date: 8/31/12	Date: 7/27/12	Date: 7/25/12	Date: 4/5/12	Date: 3/20/12	Date: 12/13/11
	No. of Days: 0	No. of Days: 0	No. of Days: 3	No. of Days: 13	No. of Days: 19	No. of Days: 44	No. of Days: 46	No. of Days: 123	No. of Days: 135	No. of Days: 201

**VIII. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING AND REQUESTS FOR FEE WAIVER**

A. Requests for Expedited Processing

	<b>Number Granted</b>	<b>Number Denied</b>	<b>Median Number of Days to Adjudicate</b>	<b>Average Number of Days to Adjudicate</b>	<b>Number of Adjudicated Within 10 Calendar Days</b>
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	1	0	2	2	1

B. Requests for Fee Waiver

	<b>Number Granted</b>	<b>Number Denied</b>	<b>Median Number of Days to Adjudicate</b>	<b>Average Number of Days to Adjudicate</b>
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	7	3	1	2

**IX. FOIA PERSONNEL AND COSTS**

	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
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	0	1.34	1.34	\$144,582	0	\$144,582

**X. FEES COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS**

	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	\$544.40	0.38%

**XI. FOIA REGULATIONS**

NCUA's FOIA Regulations and Fee Schedule can be found on our agency website at <http://www.ncua.gov/Resources/Documents/FOIA/FOIA-Regulation.pdf> and at <http://www.ncua.gov/Resources/FOIA/Pages/FOIAFee.aspx>, respectively.



**XII. BACKLOGS, CONSULTATIONS AND COMPARISONS**

A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Administrative Appeals

	<b>Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year</b>
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	5	0

B. Consultations on FOIA Requests – Received, Processed and Pending Consultations

	<b>Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that Were <u>Pending</u> at NCUA as of <u>Start</u> of Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Consultations <u>Received</u> from Other Agencies During the Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that Were <u>Processed</u> by NCUA During Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that Were <u>Pending</u> at NCUA as of <u>end</u> of Fiscal Year</b>
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	0	0	0	0

C. Consultations on FOIA Requests – Ten Oldest Consultations Received from Other Agencies and Pending at NCUA

<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Oldest Request and Number of Days Pending</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Oldest Request and Number of Days Pending</b>
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

D. Comparison of Number of Requests from Previous and Current Annual Report – Requests Received, Processed and Backlogged

	<b>Number of Requests <u>Received</u></b>		<b>Number of Requests <u>Processed</u></b>	
	<b>Number Received During FY from Last Year's Annual Report</b>	<b>Number Received During FY from Current Annual Report</b>	<b>Number Processed During FY from Last Year's Annual Report</b>	<b>Number Processed During FY from Current Annual Report</b>
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	165	130	160	136

	<b>Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the FY from Previous Annual Report</b>	<b>Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of FY from Current Annual Report</b>
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	11	5

E. Comparison of Numbers of Administrative Appeals from Previous and Current Annual Report – Appeal Received, Processed and Backlogged

	<b>Number of Appeals <u>Received</u></b>		<b>Number of Appeals <u>Processed</u></b>	
	<b>Number Received During FY from Last Year's Annual Report</b>	<b>Number Received During FY from Current Annual Report</b>	<b>Number Processed During FY from Last Year's Annual Report</b>	<b>Number Processed During FY from Current Annual Report</b>
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	9	7	10	8

	<b>Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the FY from Previous Annual Report</b>	<b>Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of FY from Current Annual Report</b>
<b>AGENCY OVERALL</b>	0	0