



Council of the
INSPECTORS GENERAL
on INTEGRITY and EFFICIENCY

Chief FOIA Officer: Mark Jones, Executive Director
Chief FOIA Officer's Report
February 26, 2018

The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) submits this report in accordance with the Department of Justice's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Guidelines issued on March 19, 2009, calling upon agencies to reaffirm the Federal Government's "commitment to accountability and transparency," and as directed in the Guidelines for 2018 Chief FOIA Officers Reports. CIGIE is a small-volume entity, processing less than 50 FOIA requests per year.

CIGIE's mission is to "address integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual Government agencies, and increase the professionalism and effectiveness of personnel by developing policies, standards and approaches to aid in the establishment of a well-trained and highly skilled workforce in the offices of the Inspectors General." CIGIE's membership consists of 73 Federal Inspectors General, the Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget (DDM/OMB), and 5 other executives from integrity related Federal agencies. CIGIE is led by an elected Inspector General member who serves as Chairperson. CIGIE's Executive Chairperson is the DDM/OMB. CIGIE currently has 11 employees who support the activities and mission of CIGIE.

In order to fulfill its FOIA requirements, CIGIE has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General to provide FOIA processing services to CIGIE. Although CIGIE receives few FOIA requests annually, CIGIE routinely reviews records for release under the foreseeable harm standard.

Moreover, CIGIE frequently posts records released under the foreseeable harm standard on its website located at www.ignet.gov, including on a dedicated FOIA Reading Room webpage. This provides the public and others with information relating to CIGIE and the work of the IG community. These postings include various documents reflecting guidance, Committee activities, and CIGIE operations. Additionally, CIGIE provides most of these materials as PDF documents. Feedback from the public and others indicates that this is the most useful digital format for documents.

As discussed above, CIGIE's annual number of requests is small and, as such, CIGIE does not typically have any difficulty acknowledging requests once received. In FY 2017, CIGIE received 38 requests. During this same year, CIGIE processed 26 requests.

CIGIE's FOIA servicing office, more often than not, communicates with FOIA requesters through email. This means of communication has become the principle method of communicating with requesters. Additionally, CIGIE's provision of a FOIA dedicated email box has assisted requesters in more easily submitting their requests.

Soon after its establishment, CIGIE prioritized the development of a public web page that provides information on how to request information from CIGIE through a FOIA request. This web page also provides a link to contact information for CIGIE's Office of Inspector General (OIG) members, as many times FOIA requesters are seeking documents maintained by a particular OIG, and not necessarily CIGIE. This web page provides requesters with the opportunity to easily identify how best to make a FOIA request to CIGIE. In addition, the web page provides a link to CIGIE's FOIA Reading Room, as discussed above, as well as other FOIA-related materials. Further, on October 1, 2017, CIGIE launched a new website - Oversight.gov. This site was launched in order to improve the public's access to independent and authoritative information about the Federal Government. The site includes a publicly accessible, text searchable repository of reports published by IGs.