

SAMPLE FOIA REQUEST LETTER

Agency Head [or Freedom of Information Act Officer]
Name of Agency
Address of Agency
City, State, Zip Code

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear _____:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request copies of the following records [or all records containing the following information]: [IDENTIFY RECORDS OR INFORMATION]

[ATTACH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS]

As the FOIA requires, please release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of documents. [INCLUDE ARGUMENTS FOR RELEASE, IF APPLICABLE.]

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am:

[INSERT REQUESTER DESCRIPTION, for example:

- an individual seeking information for personal use and not for commercial use.
- a representative of the news media affiliated with the _____ newspaper/magazine/television station/Web site/etc., and this request is made as part of news gathering activity and not for commercial use.
- affiliated with an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, and this request is made for a scholarly or scientific purpose and not for commercial use.
- affiliated with _____ corporation and seeking information for the company's business.]

[Optional] I request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest. [Include a specific explanation.]

I am willing to pay fees for this request up to a maximum of \$_____. If you estimate that the fees will exceed this limit, please inform me before processing my request.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at [PHONE and/or E-MAIL]. I look forward to receiving your response within the twenty day statutory time period. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

[Your name and contact information]