

FOIA Grants of Initial Requests and Appeals, 1998 to 2008

Initial Requests	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ch. 98-08
Requests Processed	574,935	589,387	648,087	537,423	515,638	531,448	524,697	480,109	458,586	460,665	398,607	-31%
Full Grants	323,800	327,817	353,062	302,480	272,688	253,014	234,387	198,565	187,881	164,147	111,268	-66%
Partial Grants	71,854	76,373	78,558	81,013	86,308	108,320	116,482	106,126	106,119	113,042	109,848	53%
Total Full/Partial	395,654	404,190	431,620	383,493	358,996	361,334	350,869	304,691	294,000	277,189	221,116	-44%
% Granted	69%	69%	67%	71%	70%	68%	67%	63%	64%	60%	55%	-20%
Appeals	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ch. 98-08
Appeals Processed	9,481	10,433	9,881	9,595	7,561	8,181	7,280	6,636	6,601	9,073	10,045	6%
Full Grants	570	462	366	504	373	335	282	299	229	290	1,230	116%
Partial Grants	1,304	1,731	1,391	1,094	1,094	823	946	938	842	899	1,114	-15%
Total Full/Partial	1,874	2,193	1,757	1,598	1,467	1,158	1,228	1,237	1,071	1,189	2,344	-37%
% Granted	20%	21%	18%	17%	19%	14%	17%	19%	17%	13%	23%	15%

The number of requests granted annually fell by 174,538 in the decade. There was also a heavy shift from full to partial release of the information sought. The decline began after then-Attorney General Ashcroft urged agencies to withhold information whenever they could find a legal basis. Appeal grants turned around in 2008 after a several year decline; the percentage granted was the highest since reporting began.