The University of Michigan received 846 Freedom of Information Act requests in calendar year 2018. The number of FOIA requests submitted to the university has increased significantly during the last 10 years as outlined in the chart below.

The university’s average initial response time was nine business days, a reduction from 11 days the previous year. The university responded fully to 82 percent of requests within 15 business days and at no charge, by granting the request in full or in part, or denying the request because the record did not exist or was exempt from disclosure.

Granting a request “in part” includes responses where some of the requested documents were provided, but some material requested did not exist. Also included are responses where a portion of the document requested was not provided because the material was exempt from disclosure, such as instances where an employment contract was provided but a home address was removed from the contract, consistent with the privacy exemption. In a small number of cases, the university informed the requester that more information was needed to process the request.

Fee deposits were paid to the university in 8 percent of requests. However, after processing the requests in some cases it was determined that fees were not required and deposits were refunded. Therefore, fees were ultimately charged by the university in 6 percent of responses. The fees charged for 2018 responses totaled $9,050.

In the small percentage of cases when fees were paid to the university, the average response time, from the date of receipt of the deposit to the delivery of the response, was 27 business days. The average total response time, including the initial response time for preparation of the cost estimate, was 39 business days. (Note that these averages do not include the business days the university was waiting for payment of fees.)

Please see the FOIA Procedures and Guidelines for general information regarding how the university responds to requests under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, at https://foia.vpcomm.umich.edu/.