

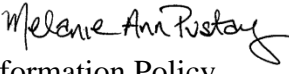


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July 27, 2016

To: Agency Chief FOIA Officers

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Subj.: Implementation of the “Release to One, Release to All” Presumption

This is a follow-up to the inaugural meeting of the newly formed Chief FOIA Officers Council which was held last week. Thanks to all of you who were able to attend and participate in person. At the meeting the Department of Justice provided a briefing on our proactive disclosure [pilot](#) that had assessed the feasibility of a policy that would direct agencies to proactively post online their FOIA responses. The concept underlying the pilot was straight forward, to ensure that all citizens—not just those making requests—have access to information released under the FOIA.

In conjunction with President Obama’s signing of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, the Administration [announced](#) new steps to build on a record of openness and transparency, including promoting broader release of records through a “release to one is a release to all” presumption. The President directed the Chief FOIA Officer Council to consider the lessons learned from DOJ’s pilot program and work to develop a Federal Government policy establishing a “release to one is a release to all” presumptive standard for Federal agencies when releasing records under the FOIA. The policy will be issued by January 1, 2017.

The engagement of agency Chief FOIA Officers will be critical to expanding the “release to all” policy more broadly across the government. For many agencies the work of preparing documents for posting online includes personnel and offices in addition to the FOIA office. Chief FOIA Officers are ideally situated to assess the resource needs across their agencies and to provide direction and facilitate engagement of all the offices that might need to be involved as agencies move forward in applying the “release to all” presumption for FOIA releases.

To further inform our guidance on implementation of the “release to all” policy, we are asking all Chief FOIA Officers to provide responses to the attached questionnaire. These responses will assist us in developing a timeline for implementation. Your responses to the questionnaire will be made publicly available and discussed at the next Chief FOIA Officer Council meeting later this fall. Please provide your responses to DOJ.OIP.FOIA@usdoj.gov by September 1, 2016.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact OIP at 202-514-3642.