



## The DoD Times (Redacted)



### *Dear DOGE, Your Day 1 To-Do: Fire Every FOIA Officer... Everywhere – “Let That Sink In”*

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The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a cornerstone of government transparency, has long suffered from systemic inefficiency and intentional obstruction. Enter Elon Musk, the new head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Known for his bold, no-nonsense approach to solving complex problems, Musk has a unique opportunity to revolutionize FOIA operations on his first day in office.

The solution is simple yet transformative: fire every FOIA officer everywhere and replace them with Artificial Intelligence (AI). The inefficiencies of the current system, driven by human error, deliberate delays, and outdated processes, demand nothing less than a complete overhaul.

#### **The Current Problem: FOIA Offices Are Failing**

FOIA offices across federal, state, and local governments have become synonymous with inefficiency and opacity. Although the law mandates responses to FOIA requests within 20 business days, delays spanning months—or even years—have become routine. These delays not only undermine the law but also erode trust in the very systems meant to ensure government transparency.

Even when responses are provided, they are often riddled with errors. Documents are improperly redacted, exemptions are misapplied, and critical records mysteriously “disappear.” These issues lead to costly appeals and litigation, further burdening taxpayers and agencies alike.



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Worse, many FOIA offices appear to brazenly disregard statutory timelines with no repercussions. By stalling responses, they deny requesters the opportunity to pursue recourse, creating a culture of unaccountability.

## Why AI Is the Solution

Artificial Intelligence is uniquely suited to replace the current FOIA workforce. Here's how:

1. **Speed and Efficiency:** AI systems can rapidly process vast amounts of data, ensuring that FOIA requests are fulfilled in hours or days, not months. Machine learning models can identify relevant records, apply appropriate exemptions, and prepare responses with unprecedented speed.
2. **Accuracy and Consistency:** Unlike humans, AI does not suffer from fatigue, bias, or subjective decision-making. Well-trained AI systems can ensure consistent application of FOIA exemptions and redactions, reducing errors and disputes.
3. **Elimination of Deliberate Obstruction:** AI would remove the ability for individuals to intentionally delay responses. Automated systems follow instructions without bias or ulterior motives, ensuring compliance with FOIA's legal requirements.
4. **Transparency in Process:** AI systems can maintain detailed logs of their actions, providing an auditable trail for how requests are processed. This transparency would increase trust in the FOIA process and simplify the appeals process.
5. **Cost Savings:** While implementing AI systems requires an upfront investment, the long-term savings are significant. Governments could reduce the expense of maintaining large FOIA teams while also avoiding the legal costs of handling disputes and lawsuits.

## The Timeline Crisis: Erosion of Accountability

FOIA's statutory deadlines are among the most frequently violated aspects of the law. Agencies routinely request extensions or provide incomplete responses simply to "pause the clock." These practices are not only illegal but also undermine the public's ability to hold governments accountable.

Replacing human FOIA officers with AI could enforce strict adherence to timelines, ensuring that the public receives information promptly and in accordance with the law.

## The Role of OGIS: A Failed Ombudsman

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), created to mediate FOIA disputes and promote compliance, has largely failed in its mission. Hampered by the same inefficiencies that plague other FOIA offices, OGIS often serves as little more than a symbolic watchdog. Replacing OGIS staff with AI could transform it into a truly impartial, efficient mediator, setting a new standard for government accountability.

## Musk's Opportunity: A Bold First Step



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Elon Musk has built a career on disrupting inefficient systems and setting bold visions for the future. The FOIA system is ripe for such disruption. By replacing FOIA officers with AI, Musk and DOGE could demonstrate a tangible commitment to efficiency, transparency, and technological innovation.

This decision wouldn't just streamline government operations—it would restore public trust in a system that has long been seen as broken. FOIA was designed to empower citizens, not frustrate them. For too long, human error and deliberate obstruction have turned this promise into a hollow shell.

## Dear DOGE: Lead the Charge

On Day 1, the path forward is clear: fire every FOIA officer everywhere, implement AI-driven systems, and make FOIA the model of government efficiency. In doing so, DOGE could transform government transparency from a bureaucratic quagmire into a shining example of what's possible when innovation meets accountability.

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Feel free to reach out privately at [francescagraham@walkthetalkfoundation.org](mailto:francescagraham@walkthetalkfoundation.org) or in the comments.

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2. [SIGN THIS PETITION](#) demanding real anti-harassment reform in the Military and Coast Guard now.
3. [SIGN THIS PETITION](#) urging the Supreme Court of the United States to hear the case of Staff Sergeant Ryan Carter who was paralyzed from the chest down following a routine surgery at Walter Reed.

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