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## **NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 30, 2020

### **Office of Open Government Reports Its Year-End Performance Statistics for 2019**

MADISON, Wis. - In an effort to continue operating transparently and ensure accountability, the Office of Open Government today reported its year-end performance statistics for 2019.

#### **Completed Activities**

- Responded to **824** public records requests (approximately 69 per month), a record-high number for the office since its inception in 2015, and 161 more than 2018 (or close to a 25% increase);
- Released public records reports, video, and audio files related to **13** officer-involved critical incidents;
- Responded to **491** inquiries on its Public Records/Open Meetings Help Line (PROM);
- Issued **100** letters providing guidance concerning open government;
- Updated comprehensive open government compliance guides **3** times (Wisconsin Public Records Compliance Guide twice and Wisconsin Open Meetings Compliance Guide once), to reflect updated laws, cases, and Attorney General Opinions since late 2018; and
- Provided **12** trainings and participated in educational presentations to governmental agencies and other outside groups on open government matters.

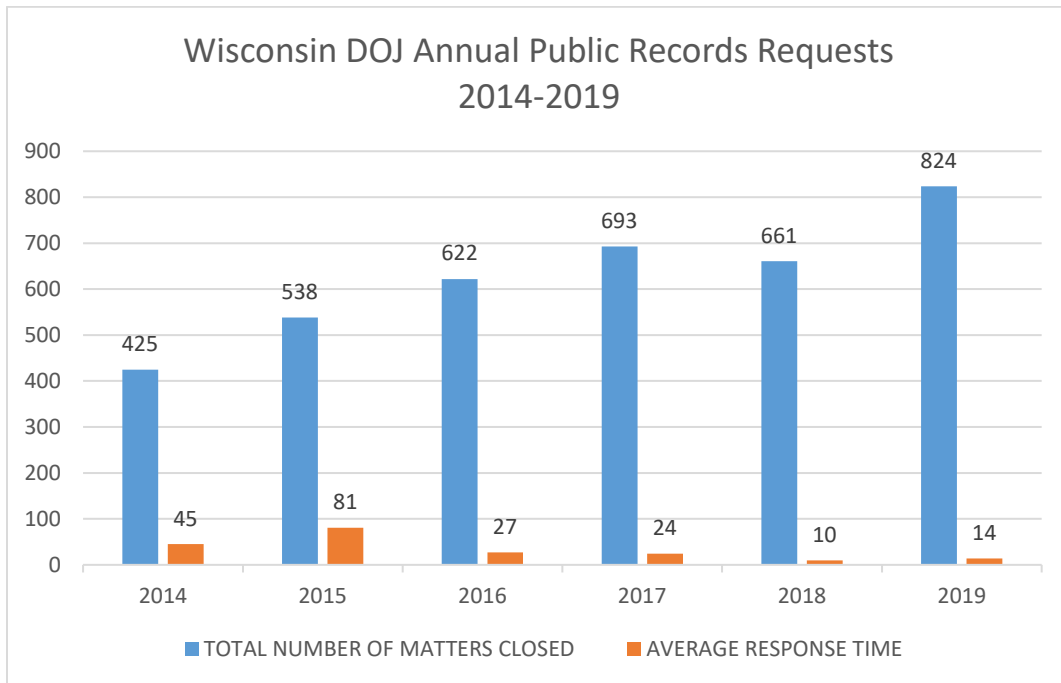
#### **Response Times for Public Records Requests**

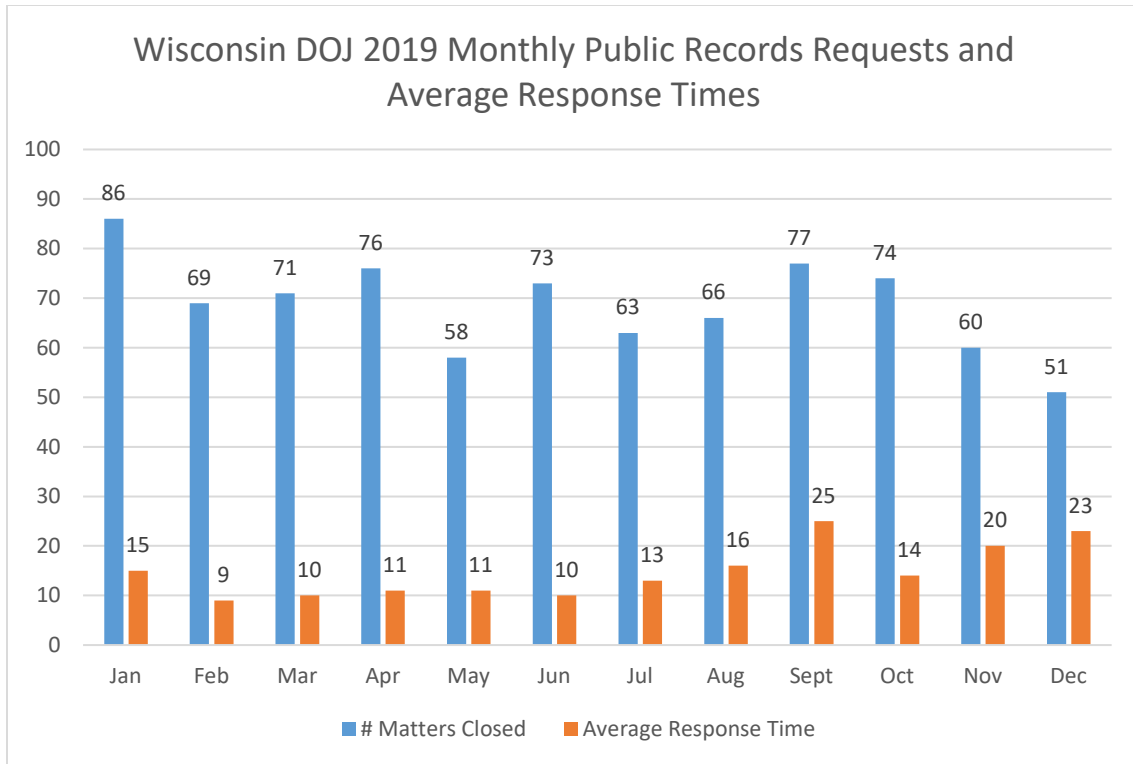
According to the Wisconsin Public Records Law Compliance Guide, “DOJ policy is that 10 working days is generally a reasonable time for responding to a simple [public records] request for a limited number of easily identifiable records.”

The office continues to maintain a large percentage of responses fulfilled within this 10-working-day guideline while at the same time responding to a record number of requests. During 2019, the office:

- Responded to approximately **75%** of public records requests within the 10-working-day guideline.
- Responded to **50%** of all requests in 4 calendar days or less and responded to **64%** of all requests in 7 calendar days or less.
- Average response time for *all* responses was **14.5 calendar days**, which includes those that were broader in scope or required time-intensive review.

As seen in the two charts below, the office responded to **824** public records requests in 2019, a large number of which were complex and required time-intensive review. This number is a record-high for the office and is a nearly 25% increase over 2018. Despite this increase, the office maintained a high percentage of average response times that fall within DOJ's 10-working-day guideline for requests.





### Continuing Efforts

In 2019, the office also increased the public’s access to public records and will continue to do so by posting the following information on its [website](#):

- A snapshot of public records requests pending on Monday of each week;
- The average monthly response time for public records requests;
- Responses to citizen correspondence, posted quarterly;
- Specific responses to public records requests that may be of particular public interest or may be the subject of multiple requests for the same records;
- Records related to Officer-Involved Critical Incidents;
- OOG’s internal policies and procedures; and,
- “Ask the OOG” columns for frequently asked questions (FAQ’s).

The office reports directly to the Office of Attorney General. The office is headed by Assistant Attorney General Paul Ferguson, and is supported by Assistant Attorney General Sarah Larson, two paralegals, one program and policy analyst, and several other attorneys and DCI employees within DOJ who regularly interact with the office.

For more information, visit the office’s [website](#) or contact the office at 608-267-2220.