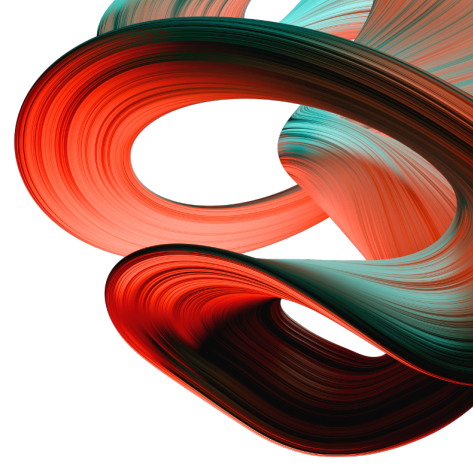




## FOIA REDACTION

# Review, redact, and defend at the speed of AI

SeekrFlow™ is an end-to-end AI platform built for the highest-consequence work in government and regulated industries. The kind of work where every output has to be explainable, every decision has to be defensible, and the cost of getting it wrong shows up in court. FOIA redaction is one of the clearest tests of what the platform is built to do: a legal obligation, a litigation risk, and a workflow that doesn't scale by adding reviewers.

## 1.5M

FOIA requests filed in FY 2024, a record high

## 33%

increase in backlogged requests year over year

## \$723M

annual federal cost of processing FOIA requests

## 18 sec

to complete work that took a team of 30 two weeks, at higher accuracy

Sources: DOJ OIP FY 2024 Annual FOIA Report; Seekr Technologies internal pilot data

# The problem

Federal agencies received 1.5 million FOIA requests in FY 2024, a 25% increase, while the backlog grew 33% to more than 267,000 cases. The cost of processing requests reached \$723 million, with litigation costs on top. FOIA offices are measured on timeliness but judged on accuracy, and neither can be achieved at scale with line-by-line human review. The pressure to close requests is exactly where errors enter the file: over-redaction, missed privacy interests, thin justifications. Every one of those errors resurfaces as an appeal, a remand, or a fee award.

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Volume        | Responsive productions of thousands of documents can't be individually reviewed without multi-week delays, regardless of staffing.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Consistency   | Analyst-by-analyst review produces inconsistent standards across a single production, creating exposure when two versions of the same decision appear in the record.                                                                                                                                            |
| Defensibility | Courts don't just want to know what was withheld. Under the FOIA Improvement Act, agencies must articulate the foreseeable harm a disclosure would cause. Reconstructing that justification after the fact, under a court deadline, is the moment most agencies realize how thin their documentation really is. |

Exemption 5, which covers deliberative communications and legal privilege, compounds everything. Deliberative process, attorney work product, and attorney-client privilege are contextual calls, not textual ones. No keyword flags pre-decisional content, and these determinations consume the most senior reviewers at the highest error rates.

# The solution

SeekrFlow is built on the principle that every AI output must be explainable, attributable, and contestable, which maps directly onto what FOIA demands: not just that something was withheld, but exactly why. SeekrFlow ingests a full corpus of responsive records, evaluates every page against all nine exemptions, applies redactions, and generates an itemized justification record in a single pass. The review that currently takes an attorney team weeks completes in seconds.

# All nine exemptions, including the hard ones

|             |                                                                                                    |            |                                                   |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| (b)(1)      | Classified national security material                                                              | (b)(2)     | Internal personnel rules and practices            |
| (b)(3)      | Records protected by statute                                                                       | (b)(4)     | Trade secrets and commercial information          |
| (b)(5)      | Deliberative process, attorney work product, attorney-client privilege, and waiver/adoption checks | (b)(6)     | Personal privacy balancing for individuals        |
| (b)(7)(A-F) | The full set of law enforcement categories                                                         | (b)(8)-(9) | Financial institution records and geological data |

Built on SeekrFlow, AI-powered redaction detects the signals that make a document pre-decisional: where it sits in the decision chain, not whether it contains the word "draft." It flags material prepared by or for counsel in anticipation of litigation, surfaces confidential communications seeking or conveying legal advice within the agency, and checks for prior public disclosure and final-decision adoption, the two conditions that most reliably defeat a (b)(5) claim on review.

|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Segregability by default</b>           | Non-exempt content is released rather than swept into the withheld pile. Courts test the segregability obligation most frequently because over-redaction is easy to spot and easy to rule against. SeekrFlow is designed to pass that test by construction: explainability and precise attribution are built into every output it produces. |
| <b>Foreseeable harm framing, built in</b> | When an agency withholds a document, it must explain which exemption applies and what specific harm releasing the document might cause. SeekrFlow records both for every redaction automatically, so the justification exists when the redaction is made, not months later when a court requests it.                                        |

# Vaughn index output, generated automatically

Every redaction SeekrFlow applies is written to an itemized sheet that correlates the withheld portion to a specific exemption and a stated justification. That is exactly the structure a Vaughn index requires, produced as a byproduct of the review rather than reconstructed months later under a court deadline. Every entry is time-stamped and attributable.

| Document  | Location      | Exemption | Recorded basis for withholding                                                        |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DOC-00412 | p. 3, para. 2 | (b)(5)    | Deliberative process: pre-decisional staff recommendation to the Deputy Administrator |
| DOC-00412 | p. 3, para. 6 | (b)(5)    | Attorney work product: litigation strategy prepared by OGC counsel                    |
| DOC-01188 | p. 7, line 14 | (b)(6)    | Personal privacy: home address of agency employee                                     |
| DOC-02730 | p. 1, header  | (b)(7)(C) | Law enforcement privacy: third-party subject name                                     |

Exportable for declarations, appeal files, and Vaughn submissions. Every entry timestamped and attributable.

## The result

FOIA offices close requests faster without the accuracy tradeoff. A consistent standard is applied across the full production, not analyst by analyst. When the request becomes litigation, the justification record already exists, built during the review, not reconstructed under a court deadline. That gap between what was redacted and why is where appeals are won, and SeekrFlow closes it by construction.

# What leadership needs to know

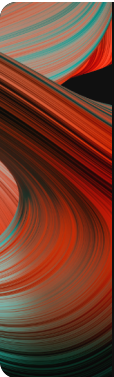
SeekrFlow is a platform. FOIA redaction is one of more than 50 mission archetypes already built on the system. The same infrastructure that processes responsive records for FOIA also supports:

|                                       |                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Intelligence and analytical workflows | Document review, signal triage, and multi-source synthesis with full attribution          |
| Compliance and audit functions        | Structured output with traceable justification across regulated domains                   |
| Investigative support                 | Pattern recognition and evidence organization across large unstructured corpora           |
| Records management                    | Classification, routing, and retention decisions at production scale                      |
| Cybersecurity operations              | Real-time interpretation of threat signals with explainable reasoning at the output layer |

The platform runs in the cloud, on-premises, in air-gapped environments, and at the edge, always within the agency's own environment, so the data never leaves its control. Every inference is explainable: SeekrFlow attributes every output to the specific data, context, and model behavior that produced it. When the AI operator has to defend a decision to a requester, an appellate court, a regulator, or the Inspector General, the evidence is already there. That's what makes SeekrFlow defensible in court for FOIA, and right for every other high-consequence workflow in the agency.

## Why now

Agencies processed 1.6 million FOIA requests in FY 2025 at the lowest grant rate on record, with a backlog approaching 340,000 cases and administrative appeals up 39%. Staff reductions are compressing the capacity agencies relied on to absorb volume increases, and more requesters are going to court. Thin documentation doesn't survive that combination. SeekrFlow doesn't require more reviewers to produce better results: the work that takes a team of attorneys weeks can be completed in seconds, with greater accuracy, and with a court-ready justification record already attached.



Seekr is the leader in explainable, defensible AI built for critical decisions in environments that demand accuracy and accountability. Seekr's technology and products help enterprises and government agencies deploy domain-specific large language models (LLMs), vision language models (VLMs) that understand the physical world, and AI agents trained on their own data – across any infrastructure, including sovereign deployments. Backed by robust verification and validation tools that surface the provenance and intent behind every model decision, Seekr delivers AI that organizations can audit and defend across all modalities.



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