

USDA RESPONSE DATED 26JULY2023

**“Typicality” FOIA request:**

- The total number of AGENCY employees that received a grade promotion
- The total number of AGENCY employees that applied for promotion.
- The total number of AGENCY employees requesting information and/or making formal complaints about COVID-19 masking and testing protocols.
- The total number of AGENCY employees denied Permanent Change of Station (PCS) or Temporary Duty (TDY) due to COVID-19 vaccination status.
- The total number of AGENCY employees denied training opportunities because of COVID-19 vaccination status.

Promotion by an advanced grade increase, not the annual step increase.

**RESPONSE:**

This is the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of Information Affairs’ (OIA) final response to the above-referenced FOIA request, which sought, between December 1, 2020 and April 30, 2023: -

The total number of USDA employees that received a grade promotion by an advanced grade increase. -  
The total number of USDA employees that applied for promotion. –

The total number of USDA employees requesting information and/or making formal complaints about COVID-19 masking and testing protocols. –

The total number of USDA employees denied Permanent Change of Station (PCS) or Temporary Duty (TDY) due to COVID-19 vaccination status. –

The total number of USDA employees denied training opportunities because of COVID-19 vaccination status.

Your request has been processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552. Searches for responsive records were conducted by the USDA Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM), the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR), and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP). OHRM provides leadership and direction for administering USDA’s human resources programs and initiatives. OASCR provides leadership and direction for the fair and equitable treatment of all USDA customers and employees while ensuring the delivery of quality programs and enforcement of civil rights. APHIS MRP provides resource management and administrative services to support the objectives of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The OHRM search located five hundred and thirty-eight (538) pages of responsive records which consist of agency promotions during the time period of interest. These records are being released to you in full. Additionally, OASCR provided the following information in response to item #3 of your request:

“A total of 42 USDA employees requested information and/or filed formal complaints about COVID-19 masking and testing protocols during the period between December 1, 2020, and April 30, 2023.”

Finally, no records were located regarding the portions of your request seeking the total number of employees who applied for promotion, were denied Permanent Change of Station (PCS) or Temporary Duty (TDY) due to COVID-19 vaccination status, or who were denied training opportunities because of COVID-19 vaccination status. Therefore, we are unable to provide you with any records regarding these portions of your request.

**“Commonality” FOIA request:**

- The total number of federal employees (supervisory and non-supervisory).
- The total number of employees by job type that were vaccinated and categorized by dosage (1,2,3,4, or 5 or more doses) by month/year.
- The total number by job type noted above that requested medical/religious accommodations.
- The total number of employees by job type who have claimed COVID-19 vaccine injury by month/year.
- The total number of employees by job type that were granted religious/medical exemptions/accommodations by month/year.

RESPONSE: (none as of 30July2023)