

2016 year-in-review

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Editor's Note: This is a monthly column prepared by the Iowa Public Information Board to update Iowans on the IPIB's activities and provide information on some of the issues routinely addressed by the board.

The Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) celebrated its third full year of operation in 2016. Created in 2012, IPIB strives to settle disputes involving Iowa's open meetings and public records laws inexpensively and efficiently. The IPIB also provides public information and training opportunities on open meetings and public records laws. The IPIB is easily accessible to the public. It is located on the third floor of the Wallace Building, maintains a website at www.ipib.iowa.gov, and can be reached by telephone at 515-725-1781.

Proof of the public utility of the IPIB can be found in its steadily increasing caseload. In 2016, 875 cases were opened. This is an increase of eight percent over 2015 volumes. The IPIB website also experienced a significant increase in activity with almost 13,000 visitors in 2016, up by about 25%.

The IPIB acts with speed. Of these 875 cases, most were resolved in less than a day.

In addition to the 12,703 visitors to the IPIB website, members of the media (13%), citizens (44%), and government officials (43%) made contact with the IPIB office in 2016.

In addition, IPIB continues to conduct training presentations throughout the year upon request. Another resource is a monthly informational column on topics of current interest.

For more information on the activities of IPIB, or to learn more about IPIB's past performance, view our annual reports on the IPIB website.

Opinions, rulings, FAQs, monthly columns, and training documents are also available on the IPIB website – www.ipib.iowa.gov. Questions for the IPIB can be posted on the website or by calling 515-725-1781.

FACTS AND FIGURES JANUARY 2017 AND 2017 YEAR-TO-DATE:

During the month of January 2017, 63 contacts were made with the Iowa Public Information Board office.

TYPE	JANUARY 2017	2017 YEAR-TO-DATE
Formal complaints	9	9
Advisory opinions	0	0
Declaratory orders	0	0
Informal complaints	7	7
Informal requests	44	44
Miscellaneous	3	3
TOTAL:	63	63

Who can contact the IPIB and how long does it take?

Any person can contact the IPIB for assistance by telephone (515-725-1781), by email, or on the website. In 2017, 63 identifiable people contacted the IPIB. Of these, 43% were private citizens, 38% were government officials or employees, and 19% were members of the media.

In the month of January 2017, 57% of the incoming contacts were resolved the same day, 22% were resolved in one to five days, and 21% were resolved in six or more days.