



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 20, 2017

Mr. Zachary Brown  
Assistant General Counsel  
Office of the General Counsel  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
P.O. Box 4004  
Huntsville, Texas 77342-4004

OR2017-08402

Dear Mr. Brown:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 654129.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the "department") received a request for the interview schedule, interview documentation forms, and all additional notes from the interviews for five named individuals, pertaining to a specified job posting. The department claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.122 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the department claims and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.122 of the Government Code excepts from public disclosure "[a] test item developed by a . . . governmental body[.]" Gov't Code § 552.122(b). In Open Records Decision No. 626 (1994), this office determined the term "test item" in section 552.122 includes "any standard means by which an individual's or group's knowledge or ability in a particular area is evaluated," but does not encompass evaluations of an employee's overall job performance or suitability. ORD 626 at 6. The question of whether specific information falls within the scope of section 552.122(b) must be determined on a case-by-case basis. *Id.* Traditionally, this office has applied section 552.122 where release of "test items" might compromise the effectiveness of future examinations. *Id.* at 4-5; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 118 (1976). Section 552.122 also protects the answers to test questions when the answers might reveal the questions themselves. *See* Attorney General Opinion JM-640 at 3 (1987); ORD 626 at 8.

The department seeks to withhold the submitted interview questions, model answers, and interviewee responses under section 552.122 of the Government Code. The department asserts the questions test the knowledge and abilities of applicants in a particular area. The department also informs us it uses the submitted questions on a continuing basis. Based on these representations and our review, we find some of the submitted questions are “test items” under section 552.122(b) of the Government Code. Furthermore, we find release of the answers to the questions would reveal the questions themselves. Therefore, the department may withhold the questions and answers we have marked under section 552.122(b) of the Government Code. However, we find the remaining questions at issue do not evaluate an individual’s or group’s knowledge or ability in a particular area. Rather, the remaining information at issue reveals questions that evaluate an applicant’s individual abilities, personal opinions, and subjective ability to respond to a particular situation. Accordingly, the department may not withhold any portion of the remaining information under section 552.122 of the Government Code. The department must release the remaining information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), or call the Office of the Attorney General’s Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Rahat Huq  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

RSH/som

Ref: ID# 654129

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)