



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 20, 2019

Ms. Angela Hough  
Assistant General Counsel  
North Texas Tollway Authority  
P O Box 260729  
Plano, Texas 75026

OR2019-26405

Dear Ms. Hough:

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# 786946 (ORR# 2019-01886).

The North Texas Tollway Authority (the "authority") received a request for contracts for provision of online legal research. Although the authority takes no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, the authority states release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Thomson Reuters. Accordingly, the authority states, and provides documentation showing, it notified Thomson Reuters of the request for information and of the right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from Thomson Reuters explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude Thomson Reuters has a protected proprietary interest in the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110; Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of

requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the authority may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest Thomson Reuters may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the authority must release the submitted 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 <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Claire V. Morris Sloan  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CVMS/gw

Ref: ID# 786946

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party  
(w/o enclosures)