



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

December 2, 2020

Mr. Erik Brown  
Director of Legal Affairs  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
P.O. Box 4004  
Huntsville, Texas 77342-4004

OR2020-29881

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# 857675 (OCG# AL0142).

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the "department") received a request for inventories, logs, expiration dates, DEA 222 forms, testing documentation, purchasing documentation, and importation documentation relating to execution documents. You claim portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under sections 552.1081 and 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.1081 of the Government Code states:

Information is excepted from the requirements of [the Act] if it contains identifying information under Article 43.14, Code of Criminal Procedure, including that of:

- (1) any person who participates in an execution procedure, including a person who uses, supplies, or administers a substance during the execution; and
- (2) any person or entity that manufactures, transports, tests, procures, compounds, prescribes, dispenses, or provides a substance or supplies used in an execution.

Gov't Code § 552.1081. Article 43.14(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure states the name, address, and other identifying information of certain persons or entities involved in execution procedures are confidential. Crim. Proc. Code art. 43.14(b). The department states portions of the submitted information consist of the identifying information of entities and persons who participated in the procurement of execution drugs. Upon review, we find

most of the information you marked consists of the identifying information of entities and persons that manufacture, transport, test, procure, compound, prescribe, or provide supplies or substances used in an execution. Thus, with the exception of the information we marked for release, the department must withhold the information you marked under section 552.1081 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> However, we find the department failed to demonstrate the remaining information you marked is confidential pursuant to section 552.1081, and the department may not withhold it on that basis.

The remaining information contains access device numbers subject to section 552.136 of the Government Code. Section 552.136 provides, “[notwithstanding any other provision of [the Act], a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential.” Gov’t Code §552.136(b); *see id.* § 552.136(a) (defining “access device”). Upon review, we find the department must withhold the access device numbers you marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code.

In summary, with the exception of the information we marked for release, the department must withhold the information you marked under section 552.1081 of the Government Code. The department must withhold the access device numbers you marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code. The department must release the remaining information.

You also ask this office to issue a previous determination permitting the department to withhold certain information under section 552.1081 of the Government Code without the necessity of requesting a decision under section 552.301 of the Government Code. *See id.* § 552.301(a) (allowing a governmental body to withhold information subject to previous determination); Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (listing elements of second type of previous determination under section 552.301(a) of the Government Code). We decline to issue such a previous determination at this time. Accordingly, 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,

Melanie Villars  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

MJV/rm

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<sup>1</sup> As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure.

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Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)