



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor  
Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary  
Anne L. Hanson, Chief Legal Counsel

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SENT VIA EMAIL

November 22, 2023

Jessica McBride  
Wisconsin Right Now  
[Jessica.wirightnow@gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.wirightnow@gmail.com)

Dear Jessica McBride:

This is in response to your September 22, 2023, public records request.

Your request does not provide a reasonable limitation as to subject matter or time period as required by Wis. Stats § 19.35(1)(h). As worded, it would require a search of that email address and each of the Department's employees' emails for a period of nearly five years. This would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and resources. See *Schopper v. Gehring*, 210 Wis. 2d 208, 565 N.W.2d 187 (Ct. App. 1997) and *State ex rel. Gehl v. Connors*, 2007 WI App 238, 306 Wis. 2d 247, 742 N.W.2d 530.

Rather than deny your request, we interpret your request to be for records between the Governor and the DOA Secretary's Office from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2021. To that end, we searched the email accounts of Joel Brennan, Chris Patton, Olivia Hwang, and Tia Torhorst, from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2021. The attached records are provided in response to your request. If we misunderstood your request, you may submit a request that more clearly specifies what you are looking for.

Under Wis. Stat. § 19.36(11) we withheld the personal email addresses of a state public official.

Under the Wis. Stat. § 19.35(1)(a) balancing test we withheld the following:

- Dates of birth of state employees. We have determined that the public interest in disclosure of this information is outweighed by the public interest in the expectation of privacy on the part of individuals in their personal lives. Further, the public interest in protecting personally identifiable information that could lead to identity theft, intrusions on personal safety, and other unwarranted invasions of privacy outweighs the public interest in access to that information. See also Wis. Stat. § 19.36(13); 42 U.S.C. § 405(c)(2)(C)(viii)(I); 5 U.S.C. § 552a; and 18 U.S.C. § 2721.
- Purely personal information. We redacted information of a purely personal nature. We determined that the public interest in avoiding unnecessary intrusion into the personal lives of individuals and protecting the privacy of these individuals

outweighs any public interest in disclosure of this information. See Memorandum from J.B. Van Hollen, Attorney General, to Interested Parties (July 28, 2010).

- Unpublished phone numbers of state employees. Making these unpublished phone numbers available to the public would cause unnecessary and unwarranted interruptions to employees at work and at home and would harm the ability of the employees to effectively utilize their time. Individual state employees are accessible via publicly available main state office lines or mail. The public interest in the efficient and effective performance of state business outweighs the minimal public interest in access to this information.
- The Governor's non-public official direct email address. Making this email address available would significantly hinder the Governor's ability to communicate and work efficiently. There is minimal harm to the public interest, given that there are numerous public means to communicate with the Office of the Governor.

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.35(4)(b), we must inform you that if this response constitutes a full or partial written denial of a public records request that was made in writing, the determination is subject to review by mandamus under Wis. Stat. § 19.37, or upon application to the Attorney General or a District Attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josephine Clark", written in a cursive style.

Josephine Clark  
Legal Counsel