



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

January 13, 2010

Ms. Charlotte Towe  
Assistant General Counsel  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Office of the General Counsel  
P.O. Box 4004  
Huntsville, Texas 77342-4004

OR2010-00638

Dear Ms. Towe:

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# 367335.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the "department") received a request for the interview questions pertaining to a specified employment position. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.122 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.122(b) of the Government Code excepts from required 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 that 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. Whether information falls within the section 552.122 exception 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.

You seek to withhold the submitted interview questions, as well as the recommended responses to those questions, under section 552.122 of the Government Code. You state the submitted interview questions are "intended to display the technical expertise of the applicant" and that the department prefers to use similar questions from one position selection to the next. Further, you argue that release of the information at issue could compromise future interviews. However, upon review, we find the submitted information consists of general questions evaluating an applicant's individual abilities, personal opinions, and subjective ability to respond to particular situations, and do not test any specific knowledge of an applicant. Accordingly, none of the submitted questions or recommended responses may be withheld under section 552.122 of the Government Code. As you raise no further arguments against disclosure of this information, it must be released to the requestor.

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.oag.state.tx.us/open/index\\_orl.php](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php), 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 must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Christina Alvarado  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CA/rl

Ref: ID# 367335

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)