



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 9, 2013

Mr. Jack C. Damron
Executive Director
Region One Education Service Center
1900 West Schunior Street
Edinburg, Texas 78541

OR2013-13885

Dear Mr. Damron:

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# 495924.

The Region One Education Service Center (the "center") received a request for the first and last name, primary and secondary e-mail address, school district, campus, current job role, and subject areas of interest for individuals who registered and paid to attend the center's 2013 Technology Conference Workshop. You state the center has released the individuals' names, current job roles, and subject areas of interest. You claim the e-mail addresses are excepted from disclosure under section 552.137 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.137 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "an e-mail address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with a governmental body," unless the owner of the e-mail address consents to its release or the e-mail address falls within the scope of section 552.137(c). *See* Gov't Code § 552.137(a)-(c). Section 552.137 is not applicable to an institutional e-mail address, an Internet website address, the general e-mail address of a business, an e-mail address of a person who has a contractual relationship with a governmental body, or an e-mail address maintained by a governmental entity for one of its officials or employees. *See id.* § 552.137(c). Upon review, we have marked the personal e-mail addresses in Exhibits C and D that are not one of the types excluded by section 552.137(c). You argue, and we agree, none of the individuals whose e-mails addresses are at issue have affirmatively consented to their release for the purposes of section 552.137. As such, the e-mail addresses we have marked in Exhibits C and D must be withheld under section 552.137 of the Government

Code.¹ The remaining e-mail addresses are maintained by governmental entities for their employees. As such, these e-mail addresses do not fall within the scope of section 552.137(a) and may not be withheld under this exception.

In summary, the center must withhold the e-mail addresses we have marked in Exhibits C and D under section 552.137 of the Government Code. As you raise no exception to the disclosure of the requested school district and campus information, that information, along with the remaining e-mail addresses, must be released.

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, 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,



Tim Neal
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

TN/dls

Ref: ID# 495924

Enc. Submitted documents

Ref: ID# 495924

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹We note Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009) is a previous determination to all governmental bodies authorizing them to withhold ten categories of information, including an e-mail address of a member of the public under section 552.137 of the Government Code, without the necessity of requesting an attorney general opinion.