



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

January 26, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

To: Kirk Allen, Edgar County Watchdogs, Kirk@illinoisleaks.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request received January 6, 2026, #2026-0001

Dear Kirk Allen,

On behalf of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department"), I write to respond to your request made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140 ("FOIA" or the "Act") for the following information:

"I am requesting the following public records.

1. A copy of the completed Open Meetings Act training certificates for all board members.
2. A copy of the completed Freedom of Information Act training certificates for all FOIA officers and any designated alternative FOIA officers.
3. A copy of the board minutes where the board took action to appoint a FOIA officer. "

Please be advised for Part 1 and Part 3 of your request, the Department has determined your request is exempt from production. The Department has determined that compliance with your request, as drafted, would place an undue burden on the Department that would substantially outweigh the public interest in the material that you are seeking. See 5 ILCS 140/2(g). Your request is overly broad, categorical, and vague. A categorical request is patently unduly burdensome to the operation of the public body. *Shehadeh v. Madigan*, 2013 IL App (4th) 120742 (4th Dist. 2013). There are more boards and board members than I can count. Simply requesting any and all board members does not narrow the search or provide any additional scope for your request.

The Department's does not maintain a list of boards or board members that are subject to the Open Meetings Act. In order to produce the Open Meetings Act training certificates for all board members, the Department would need to determine which boards are currently in existence, who sits on those boards, whether or not those boards and/or individuals are subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Please be advised for Part 2 of your request, the Department is not in possession of any completed Freedom of Information Act training certificates for all FOIA officers and any alternative FOIA officers.

To the extent you consider this a denial of your request, Section 9(a) of the Act gives a requesting party the right to seek a review of the public body's response. The review is administered through the Attorney General's office by the Public Access Counselor (PAC). You, the requestor, have 60 calendar days to submit your request for review to the PAC. The request must be submitted in writing, either by electronic mail, by fax, or by the United States Postal Service and sent to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Email: public.access@ilag.gov
Fax: 217-782-1396

Section 11 of the Act also provides a requesting party, upon denial of a FOIA request by the public body, with the right to file suit for injunctive or declaratory relief in the circuit court of Illinois for either the county where the public body has its principal office or where the person denied access resides.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Tom Seymour
Legal Counsel
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity