DAN RAYFIELD
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BENJAMIN GUTMAN
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Justice Building
1162 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-4096
Telephone: (503) 378-6002

January 27, 2026

VIA E-MAIL ONLY: crystalm388@gmail.com

Crystal Ann Major
1004 W. Main St.
Molalla, OR 97038

Re: Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order
Oregon Department of Corrections
DOJ File No.: 291200-GA0010-26

Dear Ms. Major:

This letter is the Attorney General's response to your January 20, 2026, petition for disclosure under the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.311 to 192.478. Your petition asks the Attorney General to order the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) to waive its fee and provide you with recorded Adult in Custody (AIC) telephone conversations. We have previously considered ODOC's decision to deny your fee waiver request in response to multiple petitions filed by you, and we have issued multiple prior orders upholding ODOC's decision. We decline to reconsider our prior orders and respectfully deny this part of your petition.

Your petition also challenges ODOC's estimated fee as excessive. Agencies may establish fees reasonably calculated to recover actual costs in making public records available. ORS 192.324(4)–(5). Although the Attorney General generally does not have the authority to review the reasonableness of a fee estimate, the Attorney General may evaluate claims that "the amount of the fee in comparison to the nature of the request suggests that the true purpose of the fee is to constructively deny the request, rather than to recoup the agency's actual costs." *Attorney General's Public Records & Meetings Manual* 18 (2024). This evaluation requires the public body to explain how it calculated its fee.

///

///

///

In response to your petition, we reviewed correspondence between you and ODOC in which ODOC provided you with a fee estimate of $2,385.57. We confirmed with Michelle Dodson of ODOC's records unit that this estimate reflects the actual costs of producing the requested records. Your request sought recordings of calls made by an AIC formerly in ODOC custody. ODOC identified 58 hours and 49 minutes of responsive recordings. Because ODOC must review all AIC recordings to remove exempt information, the estimate includes 58 hours of staff time, which is the primary cost driver. Based on our discussion with Ms. Dodson, we find ODOC's estimate reasonably calculated to recover its actual costs. Accordingly, we deny your petition.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN GUTMAN
Deputy Attorney General

DEP/pjn
c via email only: Toby Tooley, Records Officer, Oregon Department of Corrections