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May 15, 2026

VIA E-MAIL ONLY: lucyedwards2009@gmail.com

Lucy Edwards
6625 West Burnside #214
Portland, OR 97210

Re: Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order
Oregon Public Defense Commission
DOJ File No.: 404001-GA0095-26

Dear Ms. Edwards:

This letter is the Attorney General's response to your petition under the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.311 to 192.478. Your petition challenges a fee estimate provided by the Oregon Public Defense Commission (OPDC).

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.

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Your petition stems from a request you made to OPDC for messages between certain custodians containing any one of three terms: "Lucy," Complaint," and "LE." On May 15, 2026, OPDC provided you with an updated fee estimate to conduct this search. The fee quoted for producing records responsive to "complaint" and "LE" was $35.00. The fee for producing records associated with "Lucy" was $7,655. OPDC stated that the search results for "Lucy" yielded 11,576 potentially responsive records,[1] which would require more than 100 hours of manual review prior to production.

OPDC has explained the basis for its fee. The fee appears calculated to recoup the actual costs associated with providing records based on the term-based searches requested by you. For this reason, we respectfully deny your petition.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN GUTMAN
Deputy Attorney General

DEP:pjn
c via e-mail only: (Jennifer Bell, OPDC)

[1] OPDC explained that:

> Searching for just the keyword "Lucy" produced 11,576 potentially responsive records. While this is far fewer than the more than 70,000 potentially responsive records identified in OPDC's initial search, the number is still very large. The reason for this is that the Teams platform includes hits from many different sub-categories, including Teams meetings, Teams calls, group chats, meeting notes, and more. This means that the results would include, for example, every Teams meeting where "Lucy" was invited, as the name "Lucy" in the list of invitees triggers the keyword hit. The same is true for any Teams call or meeting in which "Lucy" was included, regardless of attendance or participation. Any Teams chats or corresponding Teams notes from any of these meetings are similarly included, with each chat or note being a separate document that would need to be evaluated. OPDC's IT team has confirmed that the technology available to OPDC does not allow for these potentially responsive records to be filtered further without manual review.