



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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September 2, 2015

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

I am in receipt of your public records request received at the Wisconsin Department of Justice on August 31, 2015, in which you ask for “any records concerning the referred to information in correspondence dated February 13, 2012 that pertained to the accreditation of the WI Crime Laboratory System.”

I would ask that you clarify specifically what records you are seeking. As you know, the February 13, 2012 letter you reference is nineteen pages long and covers a significant number of issues relating to the accreditation of the Wisconsin Crime Laboratory. A request must be reasonably specific as to the subject matter involved. Wis. Stat. § 19.35(1)(h); *Schopper v. Gehring*, 210 Wis. 2d 208, 212-13, 565 N.W.2d 187 (Ct. App. 1997). A records custodian should not have to guess at what records a requester desires. *Seifert v. Sch. Dist. of Sheboygan Falls*, 2007 WI App 207, ¶ 42, 305 Wis. 2d 582, 740 N.W.2d 177.

Clarifying specifically what records you are seeking will reduce the amount of time it will take to respond to your request and will also likely reduce the amount charged for copying, locating records and postage as allowed under Wis. Stat. § 19.35(3)(a), (c) and (d).

We will not take any further action on your request until I hear back from you. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Ferguson  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Open Government

PMF:pjm