

[Note: Email addresses have been redacted and hyperlinks removed]

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS) <[REDACTED]@samhsa.hhs.gov>  
Date: On Monday, September 18th, 2023 at 7:27 AM  
Subject: RE: Seeking Understanding - FOIA #08152022S168-  
To: Tim Reiersen <[REDACTED]@proton.me>  
CC: HHS FOIA Public Liaison (OS/ASPA) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>, [REDACTED]@nara.gov <[REDACTED]@nara.gov>, Lancey, Brandon (OS/ASPA) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>

Mr. Reiersen,

I am reattaching the revised final response letter just in case you never received it. The letter explains the appeal process.

**Exemption 4** of the FOIA protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." This exemption is intended to protect the interests of both the government and submitters of information.

**Exemption (b)(6)** permits the government to withhold all information about individuals in "personnel and medical files and similar files" when the disclosure of such information "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

The information that you are requesting may be a public records request but there are still perimeters that are set to protect individuals privacy as well as privileged and confidential information. The documents that you received provided all of the information that was releasable using the FOIA guidelines.

Thanks,  
Farrah Monroe-Cook  
FOIA Officer  
Executive Correspondence and Support Branch  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857  
[\[REDACTED\]@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@samhsa.hhs.gov)

[Note: Email addresses have been redacted and hyperlinks removed]

**From:** Tim Reiersen <[REDACTED]@proton.me>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 7:24 PM  
**To:** Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS) <[REDACTED]@samhsa.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** HHS FOIA Public Liaison (OS/ASPA) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>; [REDACTED]@nara.gov; Lancey, Brandon (OS/ASPA) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Seeking Understanding - FOIA #08152022S168- Final Response 4

I received your four emails today, each with a pdf file attached numbered 1-4.

I have a couple requests for clarification:

1. Would you please explain the significance of the entries (b)(4) and (b)(6) throughout the provided documents, in the context of my public records request? I can see that they are indicating redactions, but my question is, what is the basis for the redactions?
2. Would you please confirm instructions and timeline for filing an appeal or otherwise seeking redress?

Sincerely,  
Tim Reiersen  
he/him RYE er sun

----- Original Message -----

On Thursday, September 14th, 2023 at 2:13 PM, Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS) <[REDACTED]@samhsa.hhs.gov> wrote:

**From:** Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:12 PM  
**To:** 'Tim Reiersen' <[REDACTED]@proton.me>  
**Cc:** HHS FOIA Public Liaison (OS/ASPA) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]@nara.gov' <[REDACTED]@nara.gov>; Lancey, Brandon (OS/ASPA) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Seeking Understanding - FOIA #08152022S168- Final Response 3

**From:** Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:12 PM  
**To:** Tim Reiersen <[REDACTED]@proton.me>  
**Cc:** HHS FOIA Public Liaison (OS/ASPA) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>; [REDACTED]@nara.gov; Lancey, Brandon (OS/ASPA) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Seeking Understanding - FOIA #08152022S168- Final Response 2

[Note: Email addresses have been redacted and hyperlinks removed]

**From:** Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:08 PM  
**To:** 'Tim Reiersen' <[REDACTED]@proton.me>  
**Cc:** HHS FOIA Public Liaison (OS/ASPA) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>; '[REDACTED]@nara.gov' <[REDACTED]@nara.gov>; Lancey, Brandon (OS/ASPA) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Seeking Understanding - FOIA #08152022S168

Mr. Reiersen,

I do want to apologize for this delay as I was unaware that you never received the requested information. I originally sent the above responsive documents to you on July 18, 2023 but unfortunately due to size limits transmitting they were never successfully sent to you. I have tried to resend several times today but I am receiving an undeliverable message that the file exceeded the set size limits. Therefore, I am attaching the documents into separate emails this time to ensure that they are received without any further delays.

I would ask that you confirm the receipt of the emails.

Please see the attached documents as this is what was received and processed by the SAMHSA FOIA office.

Thanks,

Farrah Monroe-Cook  
FOIA Officer  
Executive Correspondence and Support Branch  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857  
[\[REDACTED\]@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@samhsa.hhs.gov)