

**From:** [Clark, Charity](#)  
**To:** [cn126@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:cn126@terpmail.umd.edu)  
**Subject:** Public records requested, dated December 2, 2020  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:26:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Niel PRA Response 12.15.20.pdf](#)

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Please see attached.

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Pronouns: she/her/hers

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*Via email to [cniel126@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:cniel126@terpmail.umd.edu)*

December 15, 2020

Clara Niel  
Howard Center of Investigative Journalism  
7765 Alumni Dr.  
College Park, MD 20742

Re: Vermont Public Records Act request, dated December 2, 2020

Dear Ms. Niel:

I write in response to your request for public records, dated December 2, 2020 and received by the Attorney General's Office (AGO) on December 3, 2020. Below I have recited each of your five requests and provided my responses:

*1. All databases of formal and nonformal complaints, including but not limited to information on date, location, employer, complainant, nature of complaint, narrative, agency response, status and disposition.*

As a preliminary matter, this is a sweeping request. I recommend clarifying a topical scope (e.g., complaints from consumers). The AGO will also need a date range to move ahead with preparing a cost estimate for your request. In addition, your request is for a "database," rather than specific records contained within the database. Please clarify if you wish to receive any type of record other than copies of the complaints themselves.

Please be advised that the Vermont Public Records Act concerns records only, not information. Therefore, the AGO would not necessarily be able to provide you with the specific information you seek, unless it was contained within the records themselves.

*2.All databases of formal and nonformal complaints concerning COVID-19, if separate from above*

In addition to the guidance and questions I have outlined above, I want to let you know that the AGO does not have a database of complaints specifically concerning COVID-19. We have a database of consumer complaints, some of which may relate to COVID-19. We also have a database of complaints made to our Civil Rights Unit, but those are confidential by statute. For records related to COVID-19 complaints generally, I would refer you to the Vermont Department of Public Safety, which maintains the public portal of complaints concerning Vermont Governor Phil Scott's Executive Order and Addenda addressing the pandemic. For complaints about employers, I would refer you to the Vermont Department of Labor.

*3.Copies of all formal and nonformal complaints that mention COVID-19, and all records of agency response to those complaints*

In addition to the responses I have provided above, I note that we have constituent correspondence related to COVID-19. If you wish to receive these records, please let me know the date range and we will put together a cost estimate for you.

*4.Any and all rules, regulations, standards, emergency standards, executive orders or guidelines that apply to workplace COVID-19 risks, protections or exposures*

*5.Any and all rules, regulations, standards or executive orders relating to infectious disease exposure in workplaces.*

With regards to your requests Nos. 4 and 5, I would refer you to Governor Phil Scott's office.

I hope this is helpful to you. If you would like to move ahead with any of these requests, please provide clarity as outlined above, and we will prepare a cost estimate.

Sincerely,

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Charity R. Clark  
Chief of Staff