



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

June 28, 2013

Ms. Zeena Angadicheril
Office of General Counsel
The University of Texas System
201 West Seventh Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2902

OR2013-11052

Dear Ms. Angadicheril:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 491647 (UT OGC# 149522).

The University of Texas System (the "university") received a request for the 2012 IT security gap assessment performed by Deloitte & Touche L.L.P. ("Deloitte") for the university. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.139 of the Government Code. You also state release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Deloitte. Accordingly, you have notified the third party of the request and of its right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d) (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permitted governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception to disclosure under the circumstances). We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.139 of the Government Code provides, in relevant part:

- (a) Information is excepted from [required public disclosure] if it is information that relates to computer network security, to restricted

information under Section 2059.055 [of the Government Code], or to the design, operation, or defense of a computer network.

(b) The following information is confidential:

- (1) a computer network vulnerability report;
- (2) any other assessment of the extent to which data processing operations, a computer, a computer program, network, system, or system interface, or software of a governmental body or of a contractor of a governmental body is vulnerable to unauthorized access or harm, including an assessment of the extent to which the governmental body's or contractor's electronically stored information containing sensitive or critical information is vulnerable to alteration, damage, erasure, or inappropriate use[.]

Gov't Code § 552.139(a), (b)(1)-(2). Section 2059.055 of the Government Code provides, in pertinent part:

(b) Network security information is confidential under this section if the information is:

- (1) related to passwords, personal identification numbers, access codes, encryption, or other components of the security system of a state agency;
- (2) collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental entity to prevent, detect, or investigate criminal activity; or
- (3) related to an assessment, made by or for a governmental entity or maintained by a governmental entity, of the vulnerability of a network to criminal activity.

Id. § 2059.055(b). You state the submitted information relates to an assessment of information security systems, including computer networks and programs. You explain the submitted information highlights the vulnerabilities and security gaps in network security, the release of which would make the computer networks and programs of the university and its component institutions vulnerable to attack. Based on your arguments and our review of the submitted information, we find the university must withhold the submitted information under section 552.139 of the Government Code.¹

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen J. Santos".

Kathleen J. Santos
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KJS/som

Ref: ID# 491647

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)