



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

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October 30, 2024

Kim Tart
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Enterprise Records Service (005R1B)
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Kim Tart:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) acknowledges receipt of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) report on the removal of research investigator files at the Birmingham Veterans Administration Health Care System (BVAHCS), Birmingham, AL.

According to the report, a private researcher accessed the VA network and removed ten (10) MS Excel files containing research data from VA's Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW). An investigation was conducted and the files were found on the private researcher's personal laptop. We understand that the matter was reported to the VA OIG and BVAHCS is waiting to see what actions they can take to retrieve the data or have it deleted from the researcher's personal laptop. We understand that the files were a copy and the VA maintains the electronic recordkeeping copy. We also understand that to prevent future incidents, investigators and support personnel will be required to complete a declaration that reiterates Rules of Behavior (ROB) and requires all research files to be saved on a designated drive.

Based on this information, NARA considers this matter closed. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact the Records Management Oversight and Reporting Program by email at UnauthorizedDisposition@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

William Fischer

WILLIAM FISCHER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government (Acting)