



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

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

September 16, 2025

Robert Smudde
Agency Records Officer
General Services Administration (GSA)
1800 F Street, NW
Room 1033B
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Mr. Smudde:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) acknowledges receipt of GSA's report of unauthorized disposition of records related to its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) program. NARA understands that on February 18, 2025, a terminated employee of the firm Opexus was able to delete the back-end databases that stored some of GSA's FOIA-related records. Opexus was able to restore GSA databases to the latest backup on February 14, 2025, but data entered between the last backup and the deletion were permanently destroyed.

GSA reports that FOIA request statements, correspondence, and final productions created in the FOIAXpress system on February 18, 2025, were permanently deleted. System audit logs were also deleted. GSA reports that records prematurely deleted are covered by General Records Schedule (GRS) 4.2, Item 020, Access And Disclosure Request Files; and GRS 4.2, Item 040, Records Of Accounting For And Controlling Access To Records Requested Under FOIA, PA, and MDR. These records were maintained by the FOIA program within GSA's Office of General Counsel. Copies of records responsive to FOIA requests were deleted, but they were not recordkeeping copies. For those records, originals still exist and remain with the custodian in their source records systems.

GSA reports that the records that were lost are unrecoverable, but steps have been taken to prevent further unauthorized disposition of FOIA records associated with the FOIAXpress system. NARA understands the vendor has conveyed to GSA that it has improved onboarding and offboarding processes to detect, prevent, and isolate any similar employee threat. The vendor also states it has improved logging and reporting requirements.

Based on this information, the reporting requirements of 36 CFR 1230.14(a) have been met and 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Fischer". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "William" and last name "Fischer" clearly legible.

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