

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Michael Gyetvan,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2025-0489

Director of Public Records, State of
Connecticut, University of Connecticut;
and State of Connecticut, University of
Connecticut,

Respondents

July 22, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on April 13, 2026, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found and conclusions of law are reached:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. By letter dated and filed August 12, 2025, the complainant appealed to the Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to comply with an order in a final Commission decision reached in a previous complaint, which the complainant had filed against these respondents.
3. The Commission takes administrative notice of its final decision in Docket #FIC 2024-0378, *Michael Gyetvan v. Director of Public Records, State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut; and State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut* (June 2, 2025) (“*Gyetvan I*”). In *Gyetvan I*, the Commission ordered the respondents to provide the complainant with certain records, or portions thereof, within 45-days of the date of the Notice of Final Decision (“NFD”). On June 17, 2025, the Commission issued the NFD in *Gyetvan I*.
4. In this case, the complainant contended that the respondents failed to comply with the Commission’s *Gyetvan I* decision by failing to provide him with a copy of the following in camera records, or portions thereof, or by providing him a with copy of a record that was “cropped, incomplete, and unintelligible”:
 - a. IC-2024-0378-16 (lines 22 through 35);

- b. IC-2024-0378-21 (lines 20 through 34);
 - c. IC-2024-0378-29 (lines 16 through 28);
 - d. IC-2024-0378-42 (lines 14 through 35);
 - e. IC-2024-0378-77 (lines 21 through 35);
 - f. IC-2024-0378-153 (lines 19 through 33);
 - g. IC-2024-0378-154 (lines 1 through 5);
 - h. IC-2024-0378-357 (lines 15 through 31);
 - i. IC-2024-0378-557 (lines 3 through 28); and
 - j. IC-2024-0378-558 (entire page).
5. It is found that all of the in camera records referenced in paragraph 4, above, are emails, some of which contained an attachment.
6. By the time of the non-compliance hearing on this matter, the complainant represented that he was only contesting the respondents' non-disclosure of any attachments to any of the in camera records referenced in paragraph 4, above. It is found that the following in camera records (that is, emails) contained an attachment: (1) IC-2024-0378-21; (2) IC-2024-0378-42; and (3) IC-2024-0378-558.
7. At the non-compliance hearing, the respondents agreed to provide the complainant with a copy of the record attached to IC-2024-0378-21 and the record attached to IC-2024-0378-42.
8. However, the respondents contended that the record attached to IC-2024-0378-558 was not responsive to the request for records in *Gyetvan I* or, in the alternative, was exempt from disclosure pursuant to §1-210(b)(1), G.S., as a preliminary draft.
9. Because the record attached to IC-2024-0378-558 was not included in the in camera submission received by the Commission in *Gyetvan I*, the hearing officer ordered the respondents to submit copy of the record to the Commission for an in camera inspection. On April 27, 2026, the respondents submitted the record at issue to the Commission for an in camera inspection. It is found that such record is a single document comprised of twenty-four pages (the "in camera record" or "attachment").
10. It is found that the underlying request for records in *Gyetvan I* was comprised of 26 separate requests. See *Gyetvan I*, ¶ 2a – 2cc. However, at the time of the second contested case hearing on such matter, the complainant informed the hearing officer that only the

following six requests remained at issue:

- a. Request 2.g: All records involving the externally submitted and awarded National Science Foundation, Award Number 2152202, grant titled “Transdisciplinary Convergence in Educational Neuroscience Doctoral Training Program” awarded to UConn’s Department of Psychological Sciences and Department of Educational Psychology;
- b. Request 2.h: All post-enrollment records created for all UConn Behavioral Neuroscience Program, Neuroscience Graduate/Biomedical Science Program, PNB Neuroscience Program, and Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program students;
- c. Request 2.s: All records involving the creation of any new or revised UConn Graduate School Catalog policies or writing, in any Graduate Catalog since 2019 including, but not limited to, policies, appeals of any kind, advisor and advisory system policies, and/or any other academic regulations;
- d. Request 2.t: All records involving the creation of any new or revised Policies and Rules for Graduate Study in Psychological Sciences handbook since 2019 including, but not limited to, policies, appeals of any kind, advisor or advisory system policies, and/or any other academic regulations; and
- e. Request 2.u: All records involving the removal of the “BNS Brochure” from UConn’s Department of Psychological Sciences website in or around 2022.

See Gyetvan I, ¶ 21. Accordingly, the in camera submission in *Gyetvan I* contained only those records that were responsive to the requests set forth in paragraph 10, above, for which the respondents were raising a claim of exemption.

11. It is found that the in camera record at issue in the instant matter is a draft version of a grant submission to the National Institute of Health, which contains highlighted text, missing data, and redline comments between staff.

12. Upon careful in camera inspection, it is found that the in camera record is not responsive to any of the requests set forth in paragraph 10, above.

13. In addition, based on the testimony of the respondents at the non-compliance hearing, it is found that the in camera record containing the attachment at issue (IC-2024-0378-558) was included in the in camera submission in *Gyetvan I* because it was part of a chain email

that was responsive to a request for copies of records pertaining to the complainant.¹ See *Gyetvan I*, ¶¶ 2.h, 23.

14. Because the attachment is non-responsive to the request as modified at the second contested case hearing in *Gyetvan I*, the Commission need not consider the respondents' alternate argument that such record is exempt from disclosure pursuant §1-210(b)(1), G.S.

15. It is concluded that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act as alleged by the complainant by failing to provide the complainant with the attachment to in camera record IC-2024-0378-558.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above-captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of July 22, 2026.


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

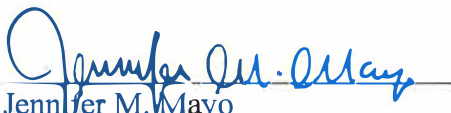
¹ If the complainant would like to obtain copies of "draft" grant submissions maintained by the respondents, he should specifically ask for a copy of such records by way of a written request and, thereafter, file a complaint with the Commission, if necessary.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

MICHAEL GYETVAN, c/o Attorney James T. Baldwin, Coles, Baldwin & Kaiser, LLC, 1 Eliot Place, 3rd Floor, Fairfield, CT 06824

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RECORDS, STATE OF CONNECTICUT, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT; AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, c/o Attorney Shannon Walsh-Whitty, Office of the General Counsel, University of Connecticut, 343 Mansfield Road, Unit 1177, Storrs, CT 06269-1177


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission