



Public Records/LEOFF 2 Retiree Data

September 28, 2022

Issue

- **The Department of Retirement Systems has large data sets regarding retirees that are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act**

Who Is Requesting this Data?

- Over the last two years DRS has received 7 requests for large data pulls
- These requests were made by:
 - American Transparency/Open the Books
 - Freedom Foundation
 - The Seattle Times

Requests Examples

- **American Transparency/Open the Books (2020)**
 - “[...] any and all retired employees which were paid a monthly pension annuity in the year 2019. This data should include the following items: first name, middle initial, last name, monthly annuity amount, last employer name, employer zip code and retirement date.”
- **Freedom Foundation (2020)**
 - “[...] the following information for each person currently employed by a public employer in Washington: First name; Middle name; Last name; Employer; The retirement system in which they currently participate; For employees participating in the PERS, LEOFF, WSPRS, PSERS, JRS, or JRF retirement systems: Day of birth (excluding month and year); For employees participating in the TRS or SERS retirement systems: Day and month of birth (excluding year)”.

Request Examples, continued

- **Seattle Times (2020)**
 - “[...] a copy of the DRS retirement database. This is something we’ve received multiple times since 2009 and would like to update our database.”

Database Field Names		
LNAME	DEPTNAME	MEMZIP4
FNAME	DEPTCITY	MEMCNTRY
MNAME	DEPTSTATE	MEMPROV
DOB	DEPTZIP	MEMPOSTAL
SYSPLAN	DEPTZIP4	ACTSAL
ENTRYDT	EMPCODE	RETBEN
RETIREDT	EMPDESC	SERYRS
WITHDT	MEMCITY	RETIRETYPE
DEPTNUM	MEMSTATE	AVGFINAL
DEPTNAME	MEMZIP	

Seattle Times Requests

- **The Seattle Times is the only requester that asked for and received home address information, specifically city, state, and zip code**
 - Received this information in 2020 and 2021
 - Agreed not to receive home address information in 2022
- **DRS removes protected members from The Seattle Times list prior to disclosure**
 - Washington State Patrol undercover officers
 - Ferry workers
 - Members in the Address Confidentiality Program
 - Victims of domestic violence

DRS Member Notification Process

- DRS publishes a statewide notification on its website with a completed Declaration of Noncommercial Purpose from the requestor stating they will not use any information for commercial purposes
- DRS notifies unions and employers that the notice has been posted
- DRS generally sets the release date for these requests as 30 days from the date the notice is posted on its website to allow members time to seek injunctive relief

Public Employee Exemptions

- For public employees
 - Home addresses and telephone numbers
 - Personal cell phone numbers and email addresses
 - Social security, drivers' licenses, or state identicard numbers
 - Emergency contact information

Law Enforcement Specific Exemptions

- **Photographs, and month and year of birth in the personnel files of employees or volunteers of a public agency, including employees and workers of criminal justice agencies**
 - This exemption does not apply to requests from the news media
- **“Criminal justice agency” employees**
 - Defined as a court or a government agency which performs the administration of criminal justice pursuant to a statute or executive order and which allocates a substantial part of its annual budget to the administration of criminal justice

Medical Record Exemption

- Medical information contained in files and records of members of retirement plans administered by DRS or the LEOFF 2 retirement board



Thank You

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