

**From:** [Leider, Mary \(SAO\)](#)  
**To:** [ericfence@yahoo.com](mailto:ericfence@yahoo.com)  
**Bcc:** [Rose, Al \(SAO\)](#); [Waltman, Ginny \(SAO\)](#)  
**Subject:** SAO Response to PRR #6105 - Columbia County  
**Date:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 11:34:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Mr. Hood,

The Office of the Washington State Auditor has received your public records request sent in via email, as follows:

***Regarding your audit of Columbia County resulting in Reports No. 1022230 and 1022264, please disclose all records you sent to the County and all records of any response to the audit or to the audit report that you received from the City. The date range for this request is from the date you first notified the County that you would be auditing it regarding the above mentioned audit up to and including January 20, 2020.***

Please be aware that in the course of an audit, many records are reviewed. Also, during the course of the audit, communications of a temporary and transitory nature, are exchanged with the audited entity. At the end of the audit, only those records relevant to the audit findings are preserved. Any other documents reviewed are destroyed in accordance with retention and destruction procedures. In addition, the links contained in any email are just that links. The Office of the Washington State Auditor utilizes secure file transfer technology to protect confidential data. The use of these kind of secure file technologies are required by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, Washington State Standard Number 141.10. Secure link file transfer technology deletes links and any data in those links within two weeks of transmission. Any link and any data associated with that link was deleted before you ever made your public disclosure request and the data no longer exists in that format. As such, a great deal of the items you wish to review (what information was transmitted back and forth), were temporary and transitory and did not need to be preserved as a record.

We need to clarify a few items with you before we start processing this request. First, your request states: ***“please disclose all records you sent to the County and all records of any response to the audit or to the audit report that you received from the City.”*** Did you mean “County” not “City”? Secondly, we do not document the details of the first notification of when the audit will start in our TeamMate file, therefore we will need a date range (a beginning date and an end date) from you to search for relevant emails.

We will need to hear back from you within the next 30 days, in order to start processing your request.

Sincerely,



**Mary Leider, CPRO**

Public Records Officer, [Office of the Washington State Auditor](#)  
(564) 999-0919 | [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov)