



STATE OF INDIANA

MIKE BRAUN, Governor

PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR
BRITTNEY A. LONG

Statehouse Room 105
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2745
Telephone: (317) 234-0906
Fax: (317) 233-3091
Toll Free: 1-800-228-6013
Email: pac@opac.in.gov
Website: www.IN.gov/pac

October 9, 2026

Re: Complaint 26-FC-106
Mohsin Nadir (Complainant) v.
Purdue University (Respondent)

This advisory opinion is issued in response to the above-referenced complaint filed on March 9, 2026.

A Notice of Complaint, along with a copy of the complaint, was sent to the Respondent on March 17, 2026, requesting a formal response by April 15, 2026. A formal response, submitted by Legal Services Coordinator Kaitlyn Heide on behalf of Respondent, was received in this office on April 14, 2026.

The complaint alleges that the Respondent violated the Access to Public Records Act (APRA) when it failed to respond to the Complainant's APRA request within seven (7) days, and when it failed to timely produce the records requested in the Complainant's APRA request.

ANALYSIS

The public policy of APRA states that "[p]roviding persons with information is an essential function of a representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of public officials and employees, whose duty it is to provide the information." IC 5-14-3-1. Respondent is a public agency for purposes of APRA; and therefore, subject to the requirements. IC 5-14-3-2(s). As a result, unless an exception applies, any person has the right to inspect and copy Respondent's public records during regular business hours. IC 5-14-3-3(a).

On December 30, 2025, the Complainant filed an APRA request with Purdue University, requesting:

1. The total number of students who were enrolled under the "teach-out" program for the Indianapolis campus from Summer 2024 onward.

2. The total number of diplomas issued with the wording “Awarded at Indianapolis” during the same period.
3. The total number of students who were admitted directly to Purdue Indianapolis from Summer 2024 onward.

Complainant alleges that Respondent failed to properly respond to his request within the statutory timeframe. Respondent is required to respond to all APRA requests within seven (7) days, or that request is considered to be constructively denied. IC 5-14-3-4.4(c)(2).

APRA further provides “[a]ny person may inspect and copy the public records of any public agency during the regular business hours of the agency.” IC 5-14-3-3(a). Respondent was closed for business from December 24, 2025, through January 4, 2026. As Respondent did not resume business operations until January 5, 2026, Respondent did not receive Complainant’s request until that day. Respondent responded to Complainant’s request on January 9, 2026, this response was within the seven-day statutory timeframe.

Complainant also alleges that Respondent has unreasonably failed to respond to any or part of his APRA request as of March 9, 2026. If a public agency does not deny an APRA request, within a reasonable time after the request is received by the agency, the public agency shall either:

- (1) Provide the requested copies to the person making the request; or
- (2) Allow the person to make copies:
 - (A) on the agency’s equipment; or
 - (B) on the person’s own equipment.

IC 5-14-3-3(b).

APRA does not define the term “reasonable time.” This office has, in the past, provided guidance on what would be considered a reasonable time for purposes of compliance with the APRA provisions. An informal benchmark this office observes for a typical response time would be thirty (30) days from the receipt of the request. *Opinion of the Public Access Counselor 20- FC-87*.

However, this office has further observed that many requests cannot be fulfilled within thirty (30) days for a variety of reasons. In those circumstances, this office considers the following factors:

- (1) The size of the public agency;
- (2) The size of the request;
- (3) The number of pending requests;

- (4) The complexity of the request; and
- (5) Any other operational considerations or factors that may reasonably affect the public records process.

Opinion of the Public Access Counselor 25-FC-034.

The request was received on January 5, 2026. However, in its response the Respondent notes the following factors:

1. Complainant's APRA request is behind 122 other outstanding APRA request.
2. Respondent dedicates a single staff person to the initial processing of APRA requests; in the order they are received.
3. Certain records requested by Complainant do not exist.

The Public Access Counselor has on numerous occasions opined that the public agency is not required to provide records that do not exist nor is it required to create such records. *Opinion of the Public Access Counselor 25-FC112*. However, despite this, Respondent is willing to gather and create a record in order to comply with Complainant's request.

Though the delay in complying with Complainant's APRA request is substantial, in light of the above-mentioned factors, this office considers the timeframe to be reasonable.

CONCLUSION

This office finds that Respondent did not violate APRA as alleged in the complaint.



Brittney A. Long
Public Access Counselor