

To the Supervisor of Public Records,

I am submitting this appeal pursuant to M.G.L. c. 66, §10 and 950 CMR 32.08 regarding a public records request I submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) on November 18, 2025.

The request seeks records from January 1, 2025 to present concerning communications between DTA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, related SNAP data demands, federal funding threats, multi-state coordination, internal fraud analyses, and data-sharing protocols. The request is limited in time, clearly defined by subject matter, and concerns records that would reasonably be maintained in electronic systems such as email archives, shared drives, or case files.

Since submission, DTA has repeatedly extended its estimated response date without producing any records, issuing any partial production, or providing a substantive explanation for delay beyond boilerplate language. Specifically:

- December 3, 2025: DTA advised it “expects to issue a response by December 19, 2025.”
- December 15, 2025: DTA revised the estimate to December 31, 2025.
- December 30, 2025: DTA revised the estimate to January 9, 2026.
- January 9, 2026: DTA revised the estimate to January 26, 2026.
- January 23, 2026: DTA revised the estimate to February 9, 2026.
- February 6, 2026: DTA revised the estimate again to February 23, 2026.

Each communication contained substantively identical language stating only that DTA “continues to process” the request. No records have been produced to date, no exemptions have been cited, and no explanation has been provided as to why records from the prior year remain unavailable after nearly four months.

On January 23, 2026, I responded to DTA noting that the records sought are recent, electronically maintained, and centrally relevant to ongoing federal–state communications, and asking whether any specific retrieval or review issues existed. DTA did not respond.

This pattern constitutes a constructive denial of access. While M.G.L. c. 66, §10(b)(vi) allows limited extensions for good cause, the statute does not permit indefinite, rolling extensions without production or a lawful denial. Repeated projected response dates, unsupported by explanation and followed by further delay, frustrate the purpose of the Public Records Law and effectively deny timely access.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Supervisor of Public Records:

1. Determine that DTA has failed to comply with its obligations under M.G.L. c. 66, §10;
2. Order DTA to produce all non-exempt responsive records forthwith, or by a date certain;
3. Require that any withheld records be accompanied by a detailed exemption log as required by law.

Please let me know if any additional information or documentation is required to support this appeal. I

appreciate your attention to this matter.