

April 26, 2024

[REDACTED]  
VIA EMAIL ONLY: FOIP@databreaches.net

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act) - Response  
Reference: 24-ARG-00425**

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I am replying to your request of March 27, 2024 for access to records/information. Specifically you had requested the following:

- 1. Records relating to any discussion of, or decision about, whether University of Alberta and any researchers involved in the CRATE DB research who collected social media tweets, posts, and other materials related to "mental health" required the informed and opt-in consent of members of the public. Requested records include, but are not limited to, any emails or communications among researchers, their colleagues, university legal counsel, and university privacy and data protection counsel or personnel.*
- 2. Records that specifically address or consider whether the researchers might be intentionally or unknowingly collecting "mental health" materials from minor children, and if so, what they would do.*
- 3. Records relating to whether data with personally identifiable information and mental health content was to be secured via encryption or to have any other heightened data protection or security.*
- 4. Records relating to any consent forms sent to members of the public relating to the collection, storage, and/or analysis of any tweets or other social media materials that relate to "mental health."*
- 5. Records relating to any public announcement by the university or the researchers prior to the start of data collection that would alert the public that there was to be research on "mental health" and social media or online activity using publicly posted tweets, instagram posts, or other social media and that the individuals' names, usernames, and content were to be collected.*

Research information of an employee of a post-secondary educational body is excluded from the application of the FOIP Act under section 4(1)(i). This means that the FOIP Act does not apply to information excluded under section 4.

Since the information/records you have requested is specifically excluded from the application of the FOIP Act, no records are being provided in response to your request.

A copy of the [FOIP Act](#) is available on the King's Printer website.

The University's [Research Policy](#) and associated procedures, frameworks etc. is publicly available on the UAPPOL website. This Policy and associated documents (linked within main document) also provides information about the responsibilities of researchers.

Information about the University's Research and Innovation program is available on the University's web site at <https://www.ualberta.ca/research/index.html>. Of particular interest may be the University Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation available at <https://www.ualberta.ca/research-innovation/plans-reports-policies/spri.html>. As well, information about the University's [Institutional Research Data Management Strategy](#) is also available on the University's website.

Under section 65 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the decision *that the records you requested are excluded from the scope of the Act*. You have 60 days from the receipt of this notice to request a review by writing to the Information and Privacy Commissioner at 410, 9925 – 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2J8. Information about the request for review process is available on the Commissioner's web site at [www.oipc.ab.ca](http://www.oipc.ab.ca).

If you wish to request a review, please provide the Office of the Commissioner with the following information:

1. The reference number quoted at the top of this notice.
2. A copy of this letter.
3. A copy of your original request for information that you sent to the University of Alberta.

Yours truly,



Mary Golab

Director, Information & Privacy Office