



U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

PRI-18-055

December 14, 2017

Mr. Pat Anson
Pain News Network
c/o MuckRock News
DEPT MR 46336
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Anson:

This letter responds to your December 2, 2017, request for the names of the individuals from various stakeholder groups the Government Accountability Office (GAO) interviewed, as well as, any documents, emails, notes or correspondence with those individuals used in preparation of the GAO report entitled PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS: Medicare Needs to Expand Oversight Efforts to Reduce the Risk of Harm (GAO-18-15, Oct. 6, 2017).

Your letter refers to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. As an agency responsible to the Congress, GAO is not subject to FOIA. However, GAO's disclosure policy follows the spirit of the act consistent with GAO's duties and functions as an agency with primary responsibility to the Congress. We are enclosing for your information a copy of our regulations concerning the availability of GAO records to the public, which are contained in 4 C.F.R. Part 81 (2017).

Please be advised that while conducting the audit engagement above, GAO obligated itself not to disclose any names or identifiable information related to these stakeholder groups. Therefore, we decline to release the requested information on the basis of 4 C.F.R. § 81.6(l), which exempts from release records GAO has obligated itself not to disclose.

In accordance with 4 C.F.R. § 81.4(d), further consideration of your request may be obtained by an appeal letter to the Comptroller General of the United States setting forth the basis for your belief that the denial of your request is unwarranted.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy P. Bowling', written over a white background.

Timothy P. Bowling
Chief Quality Officer

Enclosure