



ARCS: 292-30
File: CTZ-2019-92172

October 3, 2019

Sent via email

Re: Request for Access to Records
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)

I am writing further to your request received by the Ministry of Citizens' Services. You provided information to narrow your request on June 18, 2019 through conversation and/or email with Toyoko Doyle. Your request is for:

[Specified] records regarding the demand for S.I.N.s and the Speculation and Vacancy Tax Declaration. (Date Range for Record Search: From 06/01/2017 To 03/25/2019)

Specific Records Requested (revised):

1. all briefing notes to the Deputy Minister of Finance regarding the demand for respondents' social insurance number on the Speculation and Vacancy Tax Declaration (2019)
2. most recent complete risk assessment prepared by or for, and relied upon by the Ministry of Finance regarding the demand for S.I.N.s
3. the document that sets out the rationale for not including paper filings to BC Ministry of Finance office through the standard property tax collection system
4. all records demonstrating that BC's use of the S.I.N. for the Speculation and Vacancy Tax Declarations and for determining exemption from that tax complies with the purposes, restrictions and security requirements for the use of S.I.N.s
5. the contract between Service BC and Maximus corporation for call centre services associated with the collection of the Declarations by telephone

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- a. alternatively, records outlining all terms and conditions, and measures implemented to ensure the security of the personal information provided by British Columbians to Maximus employees contracted to Service BC for this function
- 6. the records setting out the measures taken to ensure the security of personal information, including the S.I.N. and other financial information, collected by Maximus corporation under the contract for collection of Speculation and Vacancy Tax declarations.
- 7. records that identify the ownership and geographic location of the servers used to receive, process and store the data collected through the Speculation and Vacancy Tax Declaration (2019) filings (by phone and online)
- 8. the risk assessment related to the potential application of the US Patriot Act to Maximus , including the risk of a foreign government gaining access to the Declaration data received, processed or stored by Maximus or Service BC
- 9. all approved communications materials to be used by Government of BC employees in response to concerns regarding the requirement to submit the S.I.N. or any other concerns regarding security of personal information collected through the process established for this tax declaration by the Administrator.

Information you provided to narrow the request:

“I am only interested in the final versions of the relevant documents, not the various drafts. The records I am seeking would take the form of briefing notes to Ministers or Deputy Ministers, risk assessments prepared by policy analysts and operations specialists, specified contract(s) or relevant portions of those contracts, and operational flow charts or the step-by-step instructions prepared for front-line staff. I am not seeking the email exchanges between individuals in the preparation of these materials.

The focus of this request is on the demand for property owners’ Social Insurance Numbers in the Speculation and Vacancy Tax declarations, which necessarily limits the time period to a date following the election of the current provincial government - which is less than two years. “

Please find enclosed a copy of the records located in response to your request. Some information has been withheld pursuant to section(s) 13 (Policy advice or recommendations), 15 (Disclosure harmful to law enforcement), 17 (Disclosure harmful to the financial or economic interests of a public body), and 22 (Disclosure harmful to personal privacy) of FOIPPA. A complete copy of FOIPPA is available online at:

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96165_00

Please note that the SIN is only provided (verbally) for entry directly into the Ministry of Finance’s Gentax system. At no point in time does Service BC hold anyone’s SIN.

Your file is now closed.

These records will be published on the BC Government's Open Information website a minimum of ten business days after release. To find out more about Open Information, please access the Open Information website at: www.gov.bc.ca/openinformation

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Toyoko Doyle, the analyst assigned to your request, at 778 698-2376. This number can be reached toll-free by calling from Vancouver, 604 660-2421, or from elsewhere in BC, 1 800 663-7867 and asking to be transferred to 778 698-2376.

You have the right to ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision. I have enclosed information on the review and complaint process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. Doyle".

Toyoko Doyle, Senior FOI Analyst
On behalf of Cindy Elbahir, Manager
Central Agency Team, Information Access Operations

Enclosure

<p>How to Request a Review with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner</p>
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If you have any questions regarding your request please contact the analyst assigned to your file. The analyst's name and telephone number are listed in the attached letter.

Pursuant to section 52 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA), you may ask the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review any decision, act, or failure to act with regard to your request under FOIPPA.

Please note that you have 30 business days to file your review with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. In order to request a review please write to:

Information and Privacy Commissioner
PO Box 9038 Stn Prov Govt
4th Floor, 947 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8W 9A4
Telephone 250 387-5629 Fax 250 387-1696

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's Office with:

1. A copy of your original request;
2. A copy of our response; and
3. The reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.