



File: 292-30/HTH-2020-05640

December 15, 2020

**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 Health. Your request is for:

*A true, complete and correct number of all elective surgeries cancelled in British Columbia from February 1, 2020 to the present, including by type of surgery, and date of cancellation; A true, complete and correct number of all deaths related to or as a result of cancelled elective surgeries, or from people who were scheduled to have elective surgeries and have died, from February 1, 2020 to the present; A true, complete and correct copy of all studies, reports, findings, instructions, opinions, recommendations and estimates made by or from anyone in the Ministry of Health, and/or provided to anyone therein, from anyone and everyone else, providing any information in relation to the expected or estimated cancelled surgeries, and estimated deaths expected from cancellations of all elective surgeries both resulting from your March 16, 2020 and/or any future such Orders pursuant to the Public Health Act from January 1 2020 to the present.*

Some information has been withheld pursuant to section(s) 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](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96165_00)

The Ministry was able to report on the number of cancellations from February 1, 2020, to August 20, 2020, by type of procedure and date of cancellation.

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COVID-19 related postponements from March 16, 2020 were reported by the various health authorities.

The records that have been provided are as complete a response as possible to your above request.

The Ministry of Health advised that the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control and Vital Statistics Agency might also hold responsive records to your request.

Your file is now closed.

The records located in response to your request will be delivered through the BC Secure File Transfer Service. Separate emails will follow from the BC SFT Notification Service directing you how to set up an account and where to obtain your records. A guide for using the SFTS is enclosed for your convenience.

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](http://www.gov.bc.ca/openinformation)

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Joshua Robinson, the analyst assigned to your request, at 250 419-8621. 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 250 419-8621.

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 dark ink, appearing to be 'JR' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Joshua Robinson, FOI Analyst  
On behalf of Maxine Vanzetta, Manager  
Health / Education Team, Information Access Operations

Enclosures

# **BC Government Secure File Transfer Service**

## **Information Access Operations Ad-Hoc User Guide**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide the basics skills required to use the Secure File Transfer Service (SFTS) as a temporary user (also known as ad-hoc). Your account has limited functionality and can only be used to receive files from an authorized BC Government user.

### **How to Log on to the Service**

As a temporary user of the SFTS, you must be invited to use this service by being a recipient of a sent package from an authorized user. The first time a BC Government user has sent a package to you, you will receive a welcome email notification with a temporary password to set up your account and a link to the service.

Note that your temporary account's username is your email address. The password is a temporary one and will need to be changed upon the first login.

### **Home Screen**

Once you are successfully logged in, you will see the Home screen with your records package in your Inbox. To download your records, simply click on the records package and then click on the Download button beside the file(s). You will be able to download the package up to five times and all packages will expire 35 days after being received.

### **Troubleshooting**

Your temporary SFTS account has an expiration timer of 7 days, unless the account is logged into again or receives a new package. After a further 7 days after your account has been marked as expired, it will be deleted. You will need to have a new ad-hoc account created by being re-invited to the service.

Passwords expire after 90 days. If you have forgotten your password, but your account is still active, you can use the "Request a password change" link on the Login page. An email will be sent to you providing you the URL to confirm the password change.

If you encounter technical issues with the service, please call the technical support line at 250-387-7000 and select option 3. You will need to advise the representative that you are requesting assistance as an ad-hoc user of the BC Secure File Transfer Service.

<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.