



File: 292-30/HTH-2021-10558

May 20, 2021

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 Health. Your request is for:

Records showing: How many diagnostic imaging procedures were canceled or postponed due to the British Columbia Government's COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Timeline is March 2020 through June 2020; How many physician consultations were canceled or postponed due to the British Columbia Government's COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Timeline is March 2020 through June 2020; How many blood tests were canceled or postponed due to the British Columbia Government's COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Timeline is March 2020 through June 2020; Acute care and ICU bed capacity and utilization on a monthly basis from January 2016 through December 2020; Any information or internal analysis regarding health outcomes from the postponement of elective surgeries, diagnostic imaging procedures, physician consultations or blood tests due to the British Columbia Government's COVID-19 mitigation efforts, including how many died who would have otherwise lived, and how many suffered now permanent health outcomes; How many surgeries took place on a monthly basis from January 2016 through December 2020.; How many diagnostic imaging procedures took place on a monthly basis from January 2016 through December 2020.; How many physician consultations took place on a monthly basis from January 2016 through December 2020.; How many blood tests took place on a monthly basis from January 2016 through December 2020. Information should be presented in table format (preferably .xlsx or equivalent) and further broken down according to type using a reasonable classification system and further broken down according to type such as CT scans,

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PET scans, MRIs, etc and further broken down by area or even hospital, and further broken down according to WHO ICD-10 guidelines. (Date Range for Record Search: From 1/1/2016 To 12/31/2020)

The available records are provided to you in their entirety.

Please note that the Ministry has advised that there are no responsive records for some portions of your request as follows:

- Data on cancellations or postponements of any medical services as this data is not collected.
- Occupancy rates for ICU beds as occupancy rates for all areas within hospitals are reported rather than specific ICU occupancy.
- Data relating to health outcomes from the postponement of elective surgeries, diagnostic imaging procedures, physician consultations or blood tests due to the British Columbia Government's COVID-19 mitigation efforts, including how many died who would have otherwise lived, and how many suffered now permanent health outcomes as this data is not collected.
- Data relating to diagnostic imaging procedures or postponed due to the British Columbia Government's COVID-19 mitigation efforts as this data is not collected.

Please note that for portion of the request asking for *How many surgeries took place on a monthly basis from January 2016 through December 2020*, the Ministry has advised that quarterly & annual cases completed numbers are available on Open Data BC from 2009/10 to 2019/20. For 2020/21, quarterly data is available up to Q3. Q1 starts in April. Link: <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/bc-surgical-wait-times>

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

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Suzanne Kardoush, the analyst assigned to your request, at 778 698-3353. 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 778 698-3353.

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 blue ink, appearing to read "S. Kardoush".

Suzanne Kardoush, Senior FOI Analyst
On behalf of Justine Nisbet, Manager
Justice / Health Team, Information Access Operations

Enclosures

BC Government Secure File Transfer Service Information Access Operations Ad-Hoc User Guide

Returning Users

If you are a returning user, please use your existing username and password. Passwords expire after 90 days. You can update your password at anytime.

New Users

Your records are provided to you via the Secure File Transfer Service (SFTS). You will need to setup a User Account to access to the STFS site.

You must log in to your temporary SFTS account within 7 days. After 7 days, your temporary SFTS account will expire and will no longer be accessible. If you are no longer able to access your account or records, please contact the FOI Analyst identified in your Response Letter for assistance.

Email Communication

1. The first email has your Response Letter attached.
 - This email is from the FOI Analyst at Information Access Operations who processed your file.
 - If your records are password protected, the response letter will contain your **password to open your records.**
2. The second email is the *New Package is Waiting* notification email.
 - This email will be received at the same time as the third email.
 - A hyperlink to the SFTS is contained in this email.
3. The third email is the *New User Account for the BC Secure File Transfer Service*
 - This email is sent only to users who are required to setup a STFS User Account.
 - If you are an existing user and your account is still active, you will not receive this email.
 - This email contains the following:
 - a **Hyperlink** to the SFTS site
 - a **Username** to access the SFTS site
 - a **temporary Password** to access the SFTS site
 - If you are unable to locate this email, please check your junk/spam folder. It is from BC Secure File Transfer Notification Service <DONOTREPLY>@gov.bc.ca.

Accessing Your Records

1. Setup your SFTS account.
 - Click on the URL hyperlink provided in your third email.
 - You will be redirected to the SFTS site.

- If you are not redirected to SFTS site, it is accessible at: filetransfer.gov.bc.ca.
- 2. Enter your *Username* and *Password*.
 - These are provided in your third email.
- 3. Change your SFTS account password.
 - You will be required to do this as soon as you login.
 - Follow the instructions provided to you after you login to SFTS for the first time.
 - After you change your password, select "Finish." This will redirect you to your STFS Inbox.
- 4. Your records are now accessible.
 - Records will be available in SFTS for 35 days.
 - You can download your records up to 5 times.
 - To download your records:
 - Click on the records package
 - Click on the *Download* button beside the file(s)
 - If your records are password protected, you will require a password to open the pdf document.
 - *The password to open the pdf is located in your first email's Response Letter.*
 - It is recommended that you download and save your records so you do not have to return to the SFTS each time to view.
- 5. If your records are password protected, please consult your .pdf software's user manual on how to remove the password/encryption.

Troubleshooting

- If the hyperlink to the SFTS site does not open, try to access the site on a different web browser such as Chrome, or Firefox or Safari.
- Your temporary SFTS account expires after 7 days unless the account is logged into again or receives a new package. Your account will be deleted 7 days after it has been marked as expired. Once it is deleted, you will need to have a new ad-hoc account created - contact the FOI Analyst identified in the response letter.
- 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.
 - Passwords expire after 90 days.
- If you encounter technical issues, 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.