



ARCS: 292-30
File: MAG-2019-93300

July 8, 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 Attorney General (Liquor Distribution Branch). Your request is for:

Records of the total amount of online and in-store sales of cannabis in BC since Oct. 17, 2018, broken down by region. (Date Range for Record Search: From 10/17/2018 To 05/28/2019)

Please find enclosed a copy of the records located in response to your request. Some information has been withheld pursuant to section 17 (Disclosure harmful to the financial or economic interests of a public body) of FOIPPA. A complete copy of FOIPPA is available online at:

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

BC Cannabis Stores launched October 17, 2018 with the online store bccannabisstores.com and one BCCS retail store in Kamloops, which, at present, is the only BCCS retail outlet in operation. BCCS remains a start-up retail operation in a highly competitive mixed private/public market with a significant number of direct competitors currently in start-up phase as well. In responding to your FOI request, we carefully considered the application of section 17 and relevant factors weighing in favour of, and against, release of cannabis sales information.

.../2

Section 10 of the *Cannabis Distribution Act* sets out the Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB)'s reporting requirements to Government in the form of an Annual Report, which the Minister is required to lay before the Legislative Assembly prior to its being made available to the public. At the time of this writing LDB has not yet reported its first fiscal year of cannabis financial information to Government. The LDB does not release monetary sales figures for its BC Cannabis Store in Kamloops and its online store. Since the lone retail location operates in a mixed private/public retail model, sales amounts for it, as well as the online store, are considered competitive information and are not released outside of the LDB's Annual Report, which will provide the combined sales for its BC Cannabis Store and online store. The LDB's 2018/19 Annual Report is expected to be available in August. Its 2017/18 Annual Report can be found here:

<http://www.bcldb.com/publications/annual-report>

The LDB values transparency and makes a significant amount of liquor sales data available through reports which can be purchased through our External Data Services team. Sales data for individual stores is not released publicly, nor sold. In future, a robust cannabis sales dataset will allow for similar financial and related reports to be made available.

Your FOI request 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 Kelly Morita, the analyst assigned to your request, at 250 356-2030. 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 250 356-2030.

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,



Kelly Morita, FOI Specialist
On behalf of Cindy Kukucska, Manager
Justice / Social Team, Information Access Operations

Enclosures

<p>How to Request a Review with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner</p>
--

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.