



ARCS: 292-30
File: MSD-2016-60796

April 15, 2016

Sent via email:

Dear:

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 Social Development and Social Innovation. Your request is for:

Any records, communications or other information indicating the number of benefit recipients under the Employment and Assistance Act or the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act who had deductions made from their benefits for each of the following, and the total value of the deductions: Regular Employment Insurance benefits, Maternity Employment Insurance benefits, Parental Employment Insurance benefits, Sickness Employment Insurance benefits, Compassionate care Employment Insurance benefits, Employment Insurance benefits for parents of critically ill children; Any documents, communications, records, policies or other information concerning the deduction of Employment Insurance benefits from benefits payable under the Employment and Assistance Act or the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act. (Date Range for Record Search: From 01/01/2014 To 02/15/2016)

Please find enclosed a copy of the records created to respond to your request. These records are provided to you in their entirety. Please note that the available data is total EI, not broken down by type as per the request. Reconciled data for February will be available in a few weeks. The Ministry does not release data that is not reconciled because the data may change subsequent to a cheque being issued (e.g. a cheque is issued and sent to the office but the client never picks it up or cashes it).

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The only reliable data is for clients still in pay – this is because the worker must validate everything to determine eligibility. If a case is not in pay, even if open, the data is not always reliable as it may be old data being continuously entered into the system. Since the data is not validated, it is not reliable enough to include. This means that there might be a few cases where

their EI amount made them ineligible for assistance, and they aren't included in the table. This most often occurs when someone applies for IA while waiting for their EI benefits to start (EI pending), then leaves IA when their EI starts. It is possible for an ongoing case to become ineligible for assistance because of EI, but they would have had to have a lot of exempted earned income (likely only PWD who used up most or all of their Annualized Earnings Exemption and then stopped working and received EI), or they had other deductions and therefore a smaller amount of EI made them ineligible. Either way, requires manual reviews of files to determine.

Your file is now closed.

These records will be published on the BC Government's Open Information website a minimum of 72 hours after electronic release or a minimum of five business days after release by mail in hardcopy. To find out more about Open Information, please access the Open Information website at: <http://www.openinfo.gov.bc.ca/ibc/index.page>

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Matthew Hall, the analyst assigned to your request, at 250 952-7945. 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 250 952-7945.

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,



Matthew Hall on behalf of,
Kris Ghag, Manager
Justice / Social Team
Information Access Operations

Enclosures

<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.