



ARCS: 292-30
File: PSS-2017-73892

December 21, 2017

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 Public Safety and Solicitor General . Your request is for:

Lower mainland Integrated police service dog injury reports; Abbotsford municipal police statistics for dog bites and injuries that lead to hospitalization. (Date Range for Record Search: From 01/01/2014 to 11/09/2017)

Please find enclosed a copy of the records located in response to your request. These records are provided to you in their entirety. The Ministry has also provided the following information/clarification in response to the request wording above:

We do not have police service dog injury reports. You may wish to submit requests directly to the applicable municipal police agencies for records they may have.

We do not have data on injuries from dogs that led to hospitalisation. We have provided data on the number of dog bites. The 2015 data (enclosed) has been updated slightly to what is posted on the open information website (see note below). The 2016 data (enclosed) has more information than 2015, as more data is collected according to the new BC Provincial Policing Standards. The data for 2017 is not available at this time.

The Ministry has also advised that the Abbotsford police dogs are part of an integrated unit with the RCMP. This means that Abbotsford handlers may be operating outside of Abbotsford and also that RCMP handlers may be operating in Abbotsford (in addition, Abbotsford handlers train

.../2

their dogs with the RCMP protocols.) Therefore while it may be technically possible to separate out Abbotsford handlers as a sub-group, it does not make sense in terms of the data and comparing jurisdictions; and may also be misleading (i.e. misrepresent how many people were bitten in Abbotsford).

Your file is now closed.

Here are links to the publicly available records:

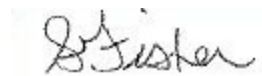
- Police Standards on the use of force and their application to police dogs:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/policing-standards>
- The 2016 dog bite statistics:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/publications/statistics/2016_bcpps_k9_data.pdf
- The original 2015 dog bite statistics, as noted above, that were published in response to FOI request PSS-2016-63918, can be located at the following link:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/enSearch/detail?id=7AFDBC16F15F42E289E9F7DDB0F80C40&recorduid=PSS-2016-63918&keyword=dog&keyword=bites>

These records will be published on the BC Government's Open Information website a minimum of five 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 Samara Fisher, the analyst assigned to your request, at 250 953-3622. 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 250 953-3622.

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,



Samara Fisher, Senior FOI Analyst
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.