



File: 292-30/PSS-2021-11639

May 14, 2021

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:

Statistics on the number of temporary absences and releases from correctional institutions related to COVID-19 pandemic prevention and management. As well, Records documenting the number and nature of grievances related to COVID-19 submitted by people on probation and other individuals currently on community release, as well as staff in probation offices.
(Date Range for Record Search: From 3/1/2020 To 3/31/2020)

The Ministry has provided the following in response to your request:

BC Corrections began issuing communicable disease Temporary Absences (TA) for individuals serving intermittent sentences on March 16, 2020, when it was considered safe and appropriate to do so. In March 2020, a total of 43 TAs were issued.

In addition, TA's for individuals serving a straight-time sentence (with less than 30 days remaining) began on March 30, 2020. A total of eight TAs were issued between March 30, 2020, and April 5, 2020.

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No records were located documenting the number and nature of grievances related to COVID-19.

Your file is now closed.

This response 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 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. Fisher", is positioned above the typed name and title.

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

Enclosure

<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.