

April 24, 2024

Kristen Schulz  
Second Street

Via email to [kristen@secondstreet.org](mailto:kristen@secondstreet.org)

Dear Kristen Schulz:

**Re: Response Letter**  
*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*  
Provincial Health Services Authority (“PHSA”)  
Our File No: F24-1837

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We write in response to your request for records made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* [RSBC 1996] c. 165 (the “Act”).

### Request

You requested the following records (the “request”):

Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery relating to cancer treatment or their first chemo or radiation treatment in fiscal year 2022-23. Please break the data out by procedure and case info – date the patient was referred to a specialist, decision date, date for the procedure and date of cancellation. Please also note the government’s target time for providing the procedure in question. (Note: many hospitals/health regions were able to identify such cases as they track the reason for cancelled operations)

Date range for records search: April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

### Response

We conducted a search for records with BC Cancer. BC Cancer advises, with respect to chemo and radiation treatments, that their information systems do not consistently or reliably capture the reasons for patients who are removed from waitlists.

For data on the number of patients that died while on waiting lists for surgery relating to cancer treatment, we checked with hospitals under PHSA which are the BC Children’s and Women’s Hospitals. BC Women’s Hospital advise they do not have data. BC Children’s Hospital advises there is no waitlist for oncology patients

– that they are prioritized for surgery, as such no patients have died while on the waitlist for surgery relating to cancer treatment at BC Children’s Hospital. The other hospitals in BC are under the regional health authorities. Information on how to submit FOI requests can be found here:

Fraser Health Authority:

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/about-us/accountability/information-requests>

First Nations Health Authority:

<https://www.fnha.ca/about/data-and-privacy/corporate-and-community-records>

Interior Health Authority:

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/about-ih/information-requests#requesting-corporate-records>

Northern Health Authority:

<https://www.northernhealth.ca/about-us/accountability/information-privacy-office>

Vancouver Coastal Health:

<https://www.vch.ca/en/about-us/accountability/freedom-information>

Vancouver Island Health Authority:

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/about-us/accountability/information-stewardship-access-privacy/accessing-information-records>

Providence Health Care:

<https://www.providencehealthcare.org/en/privacy>

A copy of the Act is available online at:

[http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165\\_00](http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165_00)

### **Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia**

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia (the “OIPC”) is the regulator of access and privacy laws in the province. If you have a concern with any decision in the processing of the Request, you have the right to request a review of PHSA’s decision from the OIPC. For ease of reference, information about the OIPC is included in Appendix A of this letter.

Additionally, should you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at [matthew.hetu@phsa.ca](mailto:matthew.hetu@phsa.ca) or 604-707-5900 ext. 545835.

Sincerely,



Matthew Hetu

**Information Access Advisor**

Information Access Office

Provincial Health Services Authority

## Appendix A: How to Request a Review

Under section 52 of the Act, you may request a review by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) of any decision, action or failure to Act by PHSA in responding to your request.

If you wish to request a review, you must contact the OIPC in writing within 30 business days of your receipt of this letter and provide the OIPC with:

1. Your name, address and telephone number;
2. A copy of the original request that you sent;
3. A copy of this letter; and
4. The reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.

All inquiries should be directed to:

### Mail

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia  
PO Box 9038, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9A4

### Email

[info@oipc.bc.ca](mailto:info@oipc.bc.ca)

### Tel

(250) 387-5629

Callers outside Victoria can contact the office toll-free by calling Enquiry BC at 1-800-663-7867 and requesting a transfer to (250) 387-5629.

### Fax

(250) 387-1696