

File Number: FOI24444

July 2, 2024

Kristen Schulz
Sent via secure file transfer to kristen@secondstreet.org

Dear Ms. Schulz:

I am responding to your request for access to records under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the Act). Your request was for:

Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure in fiscal year 2023-24.

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)

Please find attached a record created to respond to your request, while protecting patient confidentiality.

Please note the following to accompany the data and aid in interpretation of the data:

- In Fiscal Year 2023/24, there were 217 records that were cancelled from the Island Health surgical waitlist with a Patient Deceased cancellation reason.
- The reason for patient death is not documented in Island Health surgery systems; this report cannot be used to determine a correlation between the surgery or the wait time for surgery and patient death.
- This report includes surgical cases that were cancelled from the waitlist with Cancel Code 39 (Patient Deceased) between April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

.../2

- The Referral Date is provided by the surgeon's office and may represent the first time that a specific patient was referred to the specialist. This may give the appearance of time gaps that are longer than expected if the same patient has subsequent procedures over a period of several years.
- Not all patients receive a scheduled date of surgery while on the waitlist

Under section 52 of the *Act*, you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review Island Health's response to your request. You have 30 days from receipt of this notice to request a review by writing to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. I have enclosed information on the review and complaint process.

I trust that your request for records has now been satisfied and that no further action with regard to your file is required of this office. If this is not the case, or if you have any questions regarding the matter, please contact me via email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Luther". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Doug Luther
Information Access Analyst
Records Access Processing and Transparency

How to Request a Review with the
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

Pursuant to section 52 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the Act), 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 the Act.

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 letter; and
3. The reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.

FOI24444
Surgery Bookings Cancelled Reason Patient Deceased
Fiscal Year 2023/24

- In Fiscal Year 2023/24, there were 217 records that were cancelled from the Island Health surgical waitlist with a Patient Deceased cancellation reason.
- The reason for patient death is not documented in Island Health surgery systems; this information cannot be used to determine a correlation between the surgery or the wait time for surgery and patient death.
- This information includes surgical cases that were cancelled from the waitlist with Cancel Code 39 (Patient Deceased) between April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024
- The Referral Date is provided by the surgeon's office and may represent the first time that a specific patient was referred to the specialist. This may give the appearance of time gaps that are longer than expected if the same patient has subsequent procedures over a period of several years.
- Not all patients receive a scheduled date of surgery while on the waitlist

Procedure Group	# of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	73
Dental Extractions or Restorations	13
Ureteric Stent Exchange	10
Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)	121
TOTAL	217

Note: Due to patient confidentiality concerns, procedures with <10 cases have been aggregated as Other Surgical Procedures