

January 7, 2025

Kristen Schulz  
[kristen@secondstreet.org](mailto:kristen@secondstreet.org)

Dear Kristen Schulz,

**Re: BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("Act")  
Request for Records: VCH File 2024-F-163**

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We are writing in response to your request for the following records:

*Total for the number of patients that died while waiting for surgery in fiscal year 2023-2024.*

In fiscal year 2023-2024, a total of 256 patients in the Vancouver Coastal Health region passed away while waiting for surgery.

As a practice, VCH only tracks cause of death for patients on a surgical waitlist if they are actively receiving care at one of our sites. However, the total number of patients identified above also includes those who passed away while not admitted to a VCH site. As such, this data cannot be used to establish a correlation between surgical wait times and patient death.

You may request a review of VCH's response within 30 working days of receiving this email by writing to the following address:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia  
PO Box 9038, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9A4  
Telephone: (250) 387-5629  
Fax: (250) 387-1696

If you choose to request a review by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, you should include with your request:

- a copy of your original request for records; and
- a copy of this response.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

**Genevieve Limongelli, CIAPP-P**  
Freedom of Information Advisor

**Vancouver Coastal Health**

11th Floor, 601 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2

Phone: 604-837-4487

Email: [Genevieve.limongelli@vch.ca](mailto:Genevieve.limongelli@vch.ca)

FOI Office: [VCHFreedomOfInformationOffice@vch.ca](mailto:VCHFreedomOfInformationOffice@vch.ca)

I acknowledge that my place of work lies on the unceded traditional homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Lílwat Nations.