

File Number: FOI25389

May 30, 2025

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 either a diagnostic scan or a consultation with a specialist in fiscal year 2024-25.

Please break the data out by scan/consultation and case info – date the patient went on the waiting list, date for the meeting with a specialist or date for diagnostic scan (if scheduled), and date of cancellation.

Please also note the government's target time for providing the consultation or scan 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 2024/25, there were 339 patients that had a medical imaging exam cancelled due to a reason of Patient Deceased.
- The reason for patient death is not documented in Island Health diagnostic imaging systems; this report cannot be used to determine a correlation between the imaging exam modality (type of exam) or the wait time for the exam and patient death.
- This report includes medical imaging that were cancelled as Patient Deceased between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025

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- The exam is added to the waitlist as of the received date for the exam orders
- Not all patients receive a scheduled date for the exam while on the waitlist
- Deaths were grouped as either falling within the exam benchmark (varying from 7 to 60 days, dependent on physician assigned urgency) or exceeding the benchmark

With respect to those who may have died while on a waiting list for a consultation with a specialist, Island Health does not have access to this information. Referrals for consultations with a specialist would typically come from the physician's office and this information is not currently tracked by Island Health.

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", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Doug Luther
Records Access Advisor
Records Access Processing and Transparency

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

Caution: Reason for patient death is not documented at Island Health and is unknown. Consequently, this report cannot be used to determine a correlation between the wait time for the Medical Imaging appointment and patient death.

Number of Patients* between April 01, 2024 and March 31,2025					
Modality	With Completed Diagnostic Imaging	Deceased During Diagnostic Imaging Waitlist Period		Total	
		Within Benchmark	Outside Benchmark		
Bone Density	11,844	3	25	28	0.24%
Breast Imaging	42,228	7	3	10	0.02%
Computed Tomography	99,309	75	56	131	0.13%
Fluoroscopy	21,171	9	7	16	0.08%
Interventional Radiology	2,121	6	4	10	0.47%
Magnetic Resonance	41,364	8	39	47	0.11%
Nuclear Medicine	8,360	17	13	30	0.36%
Ultrasound & Vascular	76,597	38	52	90	0.12%
X-Ray	188,591	2	0	2	0.00%
Number of Patients*	318,908	144	195	339	0.11%

**The sum of the individual rows may be higher than the row or column total due to the aggregation of unique patients. For example, a patient who had both a CT and MRI completed will count as one under each modality, but will only count as one when all modalities are combined.*