



Kristen Schulz <kristen@secondstreet.org>

Your FOI Request HTH-2026-60289

1 message

IAO.CommunityandHealthTeam@gov.bc.ca <IAO.CommunityandHealthTeam@gov.bc.ca>

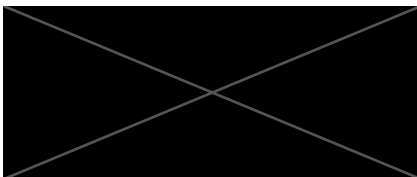
Wed, Apr 22, 2026 at
10:02 AM

To: kristen@secondstreet.org

***Request ID: HTH-2026-60289******Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)
Request for Records***

File: 292-30/HTH-2026-60289

April 22, 2026

Sent via email: kristen@secondstreet.org

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 Health. Your request is for:
*A copy of the most recent data on the number of patients in the province (or best estimate)
who are: currently on a waiting list or waiting to be placed on a waiting list for surgery or*

a procedure, a diagnostic scan or appointment with a specialist. (Date Range for Record Search: From 4/15/2025 To 1/9/2026)

These records are provided to you in their entirety.

Your file is now closed.

These records 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. The records located in response to your request will be delivered through the BC Secure File Transfer Service. Separate emails will follow from the BC SFT Notification Service directing you how to set up an account and where to obtain your records. A guide for using the SFTS is available by clicking [here](#).

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Sarah Cook, the analyst assigned to your request, at IAO.CommunityandHealthTeam@gov.bc.ca or 778-974-2885. This number can also be reached toll-free at 1 833 283-8200. Please provide the FOI request number, HTH-2026-60289, in any communications.

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,

Sarah Cook, Senior FOI Analyst
FOI & GIM Operations

Enclosure

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

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 (OIPC) to review any decision, act, or failure to act regarding your request under FOIPPA.

Please note that you have 30 business days to file your review with the OIPC.

In order to request a review with the OIPC please write to info@oipc.bc.ca or the address provided below:

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:

- A copy of your original request;
- A copy of the response from the public body; and
- The reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.

The OIPC website has additional information and forms about submitting requests for reviews or complaints: <https://www.oipc.bc.ca/for-the-public/how-do-i-request-a-review/>

Ministry of Citizens' Services	FOI Operations	Mailing Address:	Website: www.gov.bc.ca/freedomofinformation
		PO Box 9569 Stn Prov Govt	Phone: (250) 387-1321
		Victoria, BC V8W 9V1	Fax: (250) 387-9843

Ministry of Citizens' Services | FOI Operations
PO Box 9569 Stn Prov Gov't Victoria BC V8W 9V1
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/freedomofinformation>
FOI.Requests@gov.bc.ca
250-387-1321 or 1-833-283-8200



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Ministry of
Health

FOI – HTH-2026-60289

April 1, 2026

Prepared for:

Interest Group, via FOI Process

Prepared by:

MSP, Physician Compensation Analytics and HAMIS Team
Corporate Services Division

Information Security Classification Level: Public

Disclaimer: The information provided is a summary and may be shared only for the specific purpose for which it was provided. Any other use, modification, or redistribution of the data is not permitted.

1. Scope of Analysis

- MSP data is secondary-use administrative billing data. It is collected for the purposes of provider payment, not for measuring waitlists or tracking the status of referrals. As such, the data may not fully reflect clinical workflows or waitlist practices.
- MSP claims include optional fields indicating “refer from” and “refer to.” Because these fields are not mandatory, the completeness and consistency of referral information cannot be guaranteed.
- MSP does not directly record the number of patients waiting for a specialist appointment. The figures provided are derived estimates, produced by linking referral-related data elements to identify patients with a referral but without a subsequent billed initial specialist visit within the time range.
- Previous internal analyses have indicated that the quality and reliability of referral information became less consistent following the implementation of the Longitudinal Family Physician (LFP) payment model, which changed billing patterns and reduced the use of referral-related fields in MSP claims.
- The estimate provided reflects only MSP-billed services. It does not capture referrals or visits occurring outside of MSP billing.

2. Results

Based on **MSP billing data** with paid-date information up to **March 15, 2026**, there are **132,425 patients** who were referred by a general practitioner (GP) between **April 15, 2025 and January 9, 2026** and who **have not yet had an initial related specialist visit** billed through MSP.



Ministry of
Health

Title FOI Request HTH-2026-60289 - Response
Waitlist Volumes

Completion Date 2026/03/31

Question being asked

A copy of the most recent data on the number of patients in the province (or best estimate) who are: currently on a waiting list or waiting to be placed on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure, a diagnostic scan or appointment with a specialist. (Date Range for Record Search: From 4/15/2025 To 1/9/2026)

Prepared by CSD/CCS/SDA Community & Cross Sector | Surgical and Diagnostic Analytics

Filename HTH-2026-60289 FOI REQUEST - SWT MIWT.xlsx

The information contained in this/these spreadsheet(s) is of a summary nature and may be released in its entirety (Cover Sheet and relevant Tabs) for the purpose for which it was provided. However, as it was prepared to address a specific question, other use or manipulation of the data is not permitted.

FOI Request HTH-2026-60289 - Response

Waitlist Volumes

Filename HTH-2026-60289 FOI REQUEST - SWT MIWT.xlsx

Data sources 1) Surgical Wait Times (SWT) Database - Extract Name SPR_202526_53 (March 13, 2026)
2) Medical Imaging Wait Times (MIWT) Database - Snapshot ID 219 (April 17, 2024)

Notes - Surgeries

- 1 Inclusions:
 - All ages
 - Scheduled surgeries only
- 2 Exclusions:

Cornea Transplant	EP Procedure
CABG + Valve + Other	Cath Lab Procedure
CABG + Valve	Mechanical Circulatory Support
CABG + Other	Heart Rhythm Devices and Procedures
Pure CABG	Angioplasty - Cardiac
Valve + Other	Angiography - Cardiac
Pure Valve	Loop Recorder Insertion/Removals
Other OHS	Cardioversion
Non-Open Heart Surgery	Non-Surgical Code
Not Yet Mapped Cardiac Surgery	Insertion Pacemaker/Defibrillators - Includes ICD/AICD
Aortic	Reposition/Replace/Remove Pacemaker/Defibrillator/ICD/AICD Wire/Lead or Generator
Major Non-OHS	Angioplasty
Minor Non-OHS	Laryngoscopy With or Without Biopsy
Congenital Heart	Laryngopharyngoscopy
Heart Transplant	Bronchoscopy With or Without Biopsy

Notes - GI Endoscopy Procedures

- 1 Inclusions:

FOI Request HTH-2026-60289 - Response

Waitlist Volumes

Filename	HTH-2026-60289 FOI REQUEST - SWT MIWT.xlsx
Data sources	1) Surgical Wait Times (SWT) Database - Extract Name SPR_202526_53 (March 13, 2026) 2) Medical Imaging Wait Times (MIWT) Database - Snapshot ID 219 (April 17, 2024) - All ages - Scheduled GI Endoscopies only - Colonoscopies - Other GI Endoscopies

Notes - Diagnostic Scans

- 1 Inclusions:
 - o Outpatients
 - o Priority levels 1- 4 and unknown
 - o All ages
- 2 Exclusions:
 - o Inpatients and emergency department, referred-in patients
 - o Priority Level 5 encounters (which are follow-up procedures)
 - o Unmapped procedures

RMS # 14319

FOI Request HTH-2026-60289 - Response

Waitlist Volumes

Cases Waiting at February 26, 2026

Category	02/26/2026
Surgeries	96,238
GI Endoscopy	39,919
Diagnostic Scan	
MRI	100,346
CT	95,897

Note: waitlist volumes are only for patients already on the waitlist. We do not have information on patients waiting to be placed on the waitlist.



Request # HTH-2026-60289

SUMMARY OF ALL REDACTIONS

pg(s). 1 - 6

Disclosed in full

Partial Disclosure = Some information on a page is released; Full disclosure = all information on a page is released and Withheld in full = no information on a page is released.

Should you seek any additional clarifications on the Freedom of Information redaction process and details regarding sections they can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/services-for-government/policies-procedures/foipppa-manual>

Ministry of Citizens' Services
FOI Operations

Mailing Address:
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Victoria BC V8W 9V1

Email: FOI.Requests@gov.bc.ca
Website: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/freedomofinformation/>

Phone: 250-387-1321
Toll Free: 1-833-283-8200
(ask for FOI Operations)
Fax: 250-387-9843