Excellent health and care, for everyone,
everywhere, every time.

File F-260409

June 10, 2026

SecondStreet.org
Attention: Kristen Schulz

Sent via secure file transfer to Kristen@secondstreet.org

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

> *Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure in fiscal year 2025-26. Please break the data out by procedure/surgery 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: April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026*

Please find attached a record created to respond to your request. It is being released to you in its entirety.

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 is now complete. If this is not the case, or if you have any questions regarding your request, please contact myself directly or our office by e-mail at FOI@islandhealth.ca.

Sincerely,

Doug Luther

Records Access Advisor
Records Access Processing and Transparency

Enclosures

Information Stewardship, Access & Privacy
1952 Bay Street | Victoria, BC V8R 1J8
Tel: 250-370-8585/1-877-748-2290
Fax: 250-519-1908
FOI@islandhealth.ca

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

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact our office at 250-370-8585 or FOI@islandhealth.ca.

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.

- In Fiscal Year 2025/26, there were 245 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 Reason "*Patient Deceased*" between April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

- 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
Ureteric Stent Exchange	15
Knee Arthroplasty - Replacement or Revision	14
Dental Extraction/Repair	11
Hernia Repair	10
Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)	122
TOTAL	**245**

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