

December 15, 2017



Dear [REDACTED]:

Re: *Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [JPS/150/2017]*

On November 29, 2017, the Department of Justice and Public Safety received your request for access to the following records:

“Any and all documents -- paper or electronic -- pertaining to the death of inmate [REDACTED] at Her Majesty's Penitentiary on Aug. 31, 2017. Including emails and reports written by correctional officers and managers in the days after [REDACTED] death until present as well as any emails/documents/reports pertaining to [REDACTED] at Her Majesty's Penitentiary prior to his death.”

This request has been reviewed by the Deputy Minister for the Department of Justice and Public Safety. In accordance with section 17(2) of the Act, the department cannot confirm or deny the existence of records (see attached).

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request as set out in section 42 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The appeal may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference).

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time.

If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at 709-729-7128, or by email at sonjaelgohary@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonja El-Gohary". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sonja El-Gohary
ATIPP Coordinator

Content of final response for access

17. (1) In a final response to a request for access to a record, the head of a public body shall inform the applicant in writing

(a) whether access to the record or part of the record is granted or refused;

(b) if access to the record or part of the record is granted, where, when and how access will be given; and

(c) if access to the record or part of the record is refused,

(i) the reasons for the refusal and the provision of this Act on which the refusal is based, and

(ii) that the applicant may file a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 or appeal directly to the Trial Division under section 52 , and advise the applicant of the applicable time limits and how to file a complaint or pursue an appeal.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(c), the head of a public body may in a final response refuse to confirm or deny the existence of

(a) a record containing information described in section 31 ;

(b) a record containing personal information of a third party if disclosure of the existence of the information would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy under section 40 ; or

(c) a record that could threaten the health and safety of an individual.

Access or correction complaint

42. (1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52 (1) or 53 (1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21 ;

(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23 ;

(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24 ; or

(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26 .

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.

Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52. (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 , the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner's refusal under subsection 45 (2).