June 23, 2016

[Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 [Our File #: AES/024/2016]

On June 2, 2016 the Department of Advanced Education and Skills received your request for access to the following records/information:

"EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATIONS"

How much money was budgeted and expended by your Department in the provision of emergency accommodations in fiscal 2015?

Could I have a listing of the suppliers / vendors in the St. John's area please

How much money has been requested in the estimates for 2016/17 now before the House of Assembly?"

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to this information has been granted in part. The only exception to access is information subject to section 40 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 (act):

40. (1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party’s personal privacy.

The Income Support Program has one budget line which may be used to facilitate emergency accommodations throughout the province; “Board and Lodging - Daily Rate”. However, please note that this budget encompasses not only emergency accommodations, but also accommodations associated with planned medical visits and other types of non-emergency temporary accommodations. The budgeted amount for 2015-16 and 2016-17 was $2,335,700 annually.

The Department is able to break down the Board and Lodging - Daily Rate expenditures into sub-categories and was able to remove those associated with planned medical visits from the total. The expenditures for 2015-16 for emergency accommodations and other non-emergency temporary accommodations throughout the province was $1,445,758.
Your request for a listing of emergency accommodation providers is refused in accordance with section 40. The provision of this list would be an unreasonable invasion of client personal privacy as it would reveal the addresses of Income Support clients availing of accommodations from those providers.

Section 42 of the act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this partial refusal of access or you may appeal the refusal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall 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 address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is 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
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

In the event you wish to appeal to the Supreme Court, you must do so within 15 business days of the date of this letter. Section 52 of the act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Office of Public Engagement’s website within one day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (709) 729-4276 or SharonSeaward@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

SHARON SEAWARD
ATIPP Coordinator

cc. Ms. Robynn Arnold, Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner