Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: HCS/101/2016]

On August 2, 2016, the Department of Health and Community Services (the Department) received your request for access to the following records:

“Good morning, Could you please tell me how many times media access requests have been denied by Health and the reason for each, over the last 2 years? By access requests, I would include requests for access to the Press Gallery in the House, attendance at press conferences and telephone/written/electronic requests for information. Could I also obtain a copy of the policy manual or other documents that govern when media requests will be accepted and/or rejected? Kind regards”

Please be advised that our records indicate that the Department has no records responsive to your request. Furthermore, with respect to access to the Press Gallery, this information falls with the House of Assembly (HOA). Please contact the ATIPP Coordinator for the HOA for further assistance.

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act requires us to provide an advisory response within 10 days of receiving the request. As this request has been completed prior to day 10, this letter also serves as our Advisory Response.

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 Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act). 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 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
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.

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it 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 letter posted to the Office of Public Engagement's website within one business 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 contact me by telephone at (709) 729-7010 or by email vanessamacey@gov.nl.ca

Sincerely,

Vanessa Macey
ATIPP Coordinator