August 29, 2016

S.40(1)

Dear [Name],

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [CYFS/021/2016]

On August 2, 2016, the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) received your request for access to the following records:

“Could you please tell me how many times media access requests have been denied by CYFS 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?”

Please be advised that CYFS is not responsible for access to the Press Gallery. You may wish to follow-up with the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP) Coordinator for the House of Assembly for inquiries regarding the Press Gallery. The ATIPP Coordinator for the House of Assembly can be contacted as follows:

Don Hynes
(709) 729 7408
HOAATIPP@gov.nl.ca

With regard to press conferences, CYFS does not require media personnel to register prior to departmental press conferences, and, as such, does not maintain a record of attendees. Further, CYFS has no record of denying media personnel access to a press conference.

CYFS does not keep a record of whether media access requests are denied. However, departmental communications staff provide responses to media, researchers and other members of the public to the fullest extent possible.

Finally, CYFS does not have any policies regarding when a request for information will be accepted or rejected. However, please note that many of CYFS’ programs and services are guided by the Children and Youth Care and Protection Act. In accordance with Section 52 of the Act, CYFS does not make public any information that may identify a child, a child’s parent or foster parent, and/or a member of the child’s family. For more information please see:
http://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/c12-2.htm#52_
The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act requires us to provide an advisory response within 10 business 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 Completed Access to Information Requests 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 feel free to contact me by telephone at 729-5269 or by e-mail at roberthodder@gov.nl.ca

Sincerely,

Robert Hodder  
ATIPP Coordinator