Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Our File #: HCS 014 2013)

On May 21, 2013, the Department of Health and Community Services (Department) received your request for access to the following records/information:

(1) Amounts paid by the provincial health insurance plan to hospitals, health facilities (including, but not limited to) preferred providers for mental health and addiction services (including, but not limited to, services for the treatment of eating disorders and drug and alcohol dependency) rendered to insured persons while outside of Canada, in the absence of an emergency (i.e. on a pre-approved basis) in the aggregate (per year) and per patient (average); and

(2) Number of insured persons referred (including patients referred and not approved, and patients referred and approved) for the out-of-country mental health and addiction services referred to in (1).

On the same day, you refined your request as follows:

"3 years (May 21st 2010 to present) would be great."

On May 28, 2013, the Department received your request to amend the wording of the request as follows:

(1) Amounts paid by the provincial health insurance plan to hospitals, health facilities (including, but not limited to) preferred providers for mental health and addiction services (including, but not limited to, services for the treatment of eating disorders and drug and alcohol dependency) rendered to insured persons while outside of Canada, in the absence of an emergency (i.e. on a pre-approval basis) in the aggregate (per year) and per patient (average) for each mental health and addiction services (e.g. $15,000 for
treatment of Anorexia Nervosa), and if available, the location of such treatment and length of stay; and

(2) Number of insured persons referred (including patients referred and not approved, and patients referred and approved) for the out-of-country mental health and addiction services referred to in (1), including the number of referrals made and approved for each treatment/service (for instance, X referrals made for Y service/treatment).

Please be advised that our records indicate that the Department has no records responsive to your request.

Section 43 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act) provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request or you may appeal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Commissioner shall be made in writing within 60 days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2nd Floor, 34 Pippy Place
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500
Email: oipc@gov.nl.ca

In the event that you choose to appeal to the Trial Division, you must do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. Section 60 of the Act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

Please be advised that a copy of our response to your request will be published on the Office of the Public Engagement’s website five business days after the response is mailed to you. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Rachelle Cutler, ATIPP Coordinator at (709) 729-7776 or by email at RachelleCutler@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Bruce Cooper
Deputy Minister

/rc