July 31, 2018

Dear [Redacted],

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Our File #: CSSD/22/2018)

This is to confirm that on July 19, 2018, the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development received your request for access to the following records/information:

Data on the number of children who were permanently and/or temporarily removed from their parents/caregivers in the province of Newfoundland due to drug-related concerns, broken down by year from 2013 to present. If possible, please break down drug-related concerns by drug type and/or specific concern (i.e. drug addiction, drug trafficking, etc.). Please include the total number of children permanently and/or temporarily removed from their parents/caregivers for each of those years.

Please be advised that the Minister for CSSD has reviewed this request and CSSD has no records responsive to your request. The Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development becomes involved with families based on the definitions for a child being in need of protective intervention, as found in the Children and Youth Care and Protection Act (CYCP Act). Examples include a child being physically, emotionally or sexually harmed or at risk of same, or a child left with inadequate supervision. While drug use and other drug related concerns, when present, is recorded in individual case files, it is considered in relation to a range of issues facing families and not as a specific or exclusive factor requiring protective intervention. From ongoing consultations with front line staff and focus groups, the Department is aware that addiction issues are having a significant impact on the children and families we work with. However, data related to the number of families where these issues are present is not recorded in a form that can be aggregated for reporting purposes.

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:

P.O. Box 8700, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1B 4J6
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.

For Government Departments:  
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 (709) 729-6370 or e-mail at michellemurray@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kind Regards,  
Michelle  

Michelle Murray  
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