November 22, 2018

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: FIN-93-2018]

On October 24, 2018, the Department of Finance received your access to information request for the following:

“image.png Expenditures of the Consolidated Revenue Fund Table 9 Professional Services Payments in excess of $500,000 90 8Jan 2013 AG of NL Chapter Provide copies 2011 -------- 2012 professional fees 1/ Price Waterhouse $11,147,000 - $7,089 2 / Deloitte Inc $11,391,000 -- $5,529,000 3/ Provides copies of reports for the 2011 -2012 reports in 1/ & 2 above.”

The Department of Finance has completed a search of its records to identify reports prepared by Price Waterhouse Cooper and Deloitte in 2011-2012. As a result of this search, it has been determined that the Department has no records responsive to this request.

However, it is noted that the amounts referenced above are consolidated amounts paid to the vendors identified above on behalf of various government departments. It is reasonable to conclude then that the reports requested could be within the custody/control of another government department, however the Department does not have any information to confirm or deny such.

However, the Department of Finance is mandated to oversee the payment and receipt of money on behalf of all government departments. This is accomplished through the Government Financial Management System (FMS). As such, the Department conducted a search of FMS to identify those departments which authorized payments to Price Waterhouse Coopers and Deloitte for the amounts referenced above within the requested time period. This searched identified the following departments:

1. Advanced Education and Social Learning
2. Children, Seniors and Social Development
3. Executive Council
4. Fisheries and Land Resources
5. Health and Community Services
6. Natural Resources  
7. Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation  
8. Transportation and Works

As mentioned above, the Department of Finance does not have within its custody/control responsive records, as the description for these payments does not provide detailed information to identify the existence of such reports. Therefore please contact these departments if you require additional information.

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.

The response will be published following a 72-hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where the response is mailed to you. It is the goal to have the response 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 the undersigned by telephone at 709-729-2082, or by email at BethBartlett@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Beth Bartlett, CIAPP-C  
ATIPP Coordinator