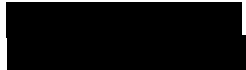




Ontario Health

September 4, 2020

Ms. Christine Van Geyn
Canadian Constitution Foundation



Re: Freedom of Information Request (FOI) OH20-012 and OH20-013

Dear Ms. Van Geyn,

I am writing regarding your access requests OH20-012 and OH20-013, made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ('the Act'). These requests, received by the Ministry of Health on August 5, 2020 and transferred to Ontario Health on August 11, 2020, were for the following general records:

- Diagnostic Backlog (OH20-012): Please disclose the diagnostic backlog as of March 18, 2020 and July 27, 2020. If possible, please break down this backlog into the types of diagnostic procedures (CT, MRI/ etc.).
- Surgical Backlog (OH20-013): Please disclose the surgical backlog as of March 18, 2020 and July 27, 2020. If possible, please break down this backlog into elective and non-elective surgeries.

A search has been conducted and the responsive records have been reviewed. A decision has been made to grant access to the information that has been identified as responsive to your request. The responsive records are enclosed.

The estimated fee for processing your request was \$30. The actual fee breakdown is as follows:

- \$30 for search time based on 1 hour of time @ \$30 per hour

The Act provides that all or part of the fee can be waived if in our opinion it is fair and equitable to do so. The decision has been made to waive the fees for this request.

We ask that you provide confirmation of receipt of this response.

You may request the Information and Privacy Commissioner ('the IPC') to review this decision within thirty days from the date of this letter. The Commissioner's address is Suite 1400, 2 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8. The appeal fee for a request like yours is \$25.00, payable by cheque or money order to the Minister of Finance. This fee must be included with your correspondence with the

Commissioner's office. Please note that, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IPC may have different or additional procedures for handling appeals and related fees at this time. You may wish to refer to the IPC website at www.ipc.on.ca, or phone the IPC at 1-800-387-0073, for details.

Should you have any questions, please contact me. We would appreciate you using our request number OH20-012 and OH20-013 in any further correspondence with Ontario Health about this request.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Privacy Specialist, FOI Coordinator, Legal and Privacy
Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)
www.ontariohealth.ca

437-703-3210

elizabeth.parton@ontariohealth.ca



Freedom of Information Access Requests OH20-012 and OH20-013 Responsive Records

Surgical Backlog (OH20-013):

The pandemic has presented various challenges that have limited the accuracy of wait list volumes recorded in the Wait Times Information System. For example, the MOH issued a directive requiring all nonessential and elective services to be ceased or reduced to minimal levels. This unprecedented reduction in surgeries lead to cancellations of surgeries in Ontario’s Wait Time Information Systems resulting in incomplete wait lists.

While data accuracy continues to improve as services resume across the province, as of August 2020, wait lists data in the provincial Wait Times Information System are incomplete and do not accurately reflect the patient queues for the province.

Backlog information is provided for March 18, 2020 in the table below. However, Ontario Health does not have accurate backlog information for July 27, 2020. As such, information has been provided on the volume of surgeries completed between March 18 to July 27 for both 2019 and 2020 for the identified services to assist in estimating the increase in backlog information up to July 27, 2020.

Service Area	March 18, 2020 Wait List	Procedures completed during identified dates (March 18 – July 27)	
		2019*	2020
Oncology	5,833	18,136	13,856
Adult Non-Oncology	163,740	200,969	51,856
Paediatric	16,866	20,055	4,950

* 2019 volume is based on data from March 20 – July 29, 2019 for comparative purposes

Extrapolation of wait list size based on previous year volumes is only a general estimate.

Diagnostic Backlog (OH20-012):

The pandemic has presented various challenges that have limited the accuracy of wait list volumes recorded in the Wait Times Information System. For example, the MOH issued a directive requiring all nonessential and elective services to be ceased or reduced to minimal levels. This unprecedented reduction in diagnostic services lead to cancellations of diagnostic services in Ontario’s Wait Time Information Systems resulting in incomplete wait lists.

While data accuracy continues to improve as services resume across the province, as of August 2020, wait lists data in the provincial Wait Times Information System are incomplete and do not accurately reflect the patient queues for the province.

Backlog information is provided for March 18, 2020 in the table below. However, Ontario Health does not have accurate backlog information for July 27, 2020. As such, information has been provided on the volume of surgeries completed between March 18 to July 27 for both 2019 and 2020 for the identified services to assist in estimating the increase in backlog information up to July 27, 2020.

Service Area	March 18, 2020 Wait List	Procedures completed during identified dates (March 18 – July 27)	
		2019*	2020
CT Scan	193,847	735,939	574,435
MRI Scan	207,323	324,244	186,307

** 2019 volume is based on data from March 20 – July 29, 2019 for comparative purposes*

Extrapolation of wait list size based on previous year volumes is only a general estimate.