

Decision of the Commissioner

Extension of Time for Public Bodies to Respond to Freedom of Information Requests

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and continued public health emergency that has been declared in British Columbia, I have concluded that it is fair and reasonable, under s. 10(2)(b) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA), to extend the period in which the head of each public body in British Columbia is permitted to extend the time provided under FIPPA to respond to a freedom of information request, as follows:

1. This permission applies to requests that a public body receives between May 1 and May 15, 2020.
2. An extension of time under this permission must not exceed 30 days from the later of:
 - (a) the date on which the time for response provided in s. 7(1) of FIPPA ends; or
 - (b) if an extension is made under s. 10(1) of FIPPA, the date on which that extension ends.

An extension made under this permission is in addition to any extension of time that a public body is authorized to make under s. 10(1) of FIPPA.

If it considers it necessary, a public body may apply to me, under s. 10(2)(b) of FIPPA, for further permission to extend the time for response.

A public body that extends the time for responding under this permission is expected to deliver to my Office, by July 15, 2020, a document listing every request in respect of which it has extended the time for responding in accordance with this decision.

Public bodies are reminded that s. 10(3) of FIPPA requires them to notify each applicant of any extension of time, of the reasons for it, and when a response can be expected.

A term used in this decision that is defined in FIPPA has the same meaning in this decision.

April 22, 2020



Michael McEvoy
Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia