

December 20, 2021

Shelly D Hipson
RR3 Shelburne, B0T 1W0

Sent via email: shellyhipson@gmail.com

Dear Shelly Hipson,

Re: We cannot grant your request – 2021-01821-HEA

The Department of Health and Wellness received your application for access to information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the Act) on October 4, 2021.

In your application, you requested a copy of the following records:

I would like copies of all records that are forwarded from Nova Scotia to the Public Health Agency of Canada's Canadian Adverse Events Following Immunization Surveillance System (CAEFISS) and Health Canada's Canada Vigilance program that were used to create the following breakdown of information (see attached) (Date Range for Record Search: From 12/19/2020 To 9/30/2021)

Amended November 19, 2021: November 19th to a breakdown of the reported adverse events in aggregated format rather than full AEFI. (Date Range for Record Search: From 12/19/2020 To 9/30/2021)

We are refusing access to the records for the following reasons:

- Exclusions: The *FOIPOP Act* does not apply to the following kinds of information in the custody or control of a public body. This information is therefore excluded from the jurisdiction of the Act:
 - Section 4(2): published information, material available for purchase, court records, and material that is a matter of public record

The Department of Health and Wellness has published a report on Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) that can be found here:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/alerts-notice/#adverse-events-following-immunization>

Please note that within the report the most frequently reported adverse events by vaccine type include the top 10 most frequently reported in Nova Scotia. The adverse events of special interest relevant to Nova Scotia are myocarditis, Guillain-Barre syndrome and vaccine-induced Immune Thrombocytopenia (VITT).

The number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered per week has been provided in a previous FOIPOP request (2021-01590-HEA) and can be found publicly here: <https://openinformation.novascotia.ca/>. This information is also included in news releases found here: [News releases from COVID - 19 \(Page 1\) - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#) and is updated for the current numbers here: [NS COVID-19 \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Further information regarding weekly number/rates of COVID-19 vaccine adverse event reports, number/rate of adverse event reports by vaccine name and dose number and further breakdown of adverse event following immunization reports into specified age categories was not included within the public report and will not be provided within the response to this FOIPOP request. The Department does not hold a copy of records that respond to this portion of the scope and under Section 8 (3)(b) of the Act, creating the record would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the public body.

You have the right to ask for a review of this decision by the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner (formerly the Review Officer). You have 60 days from the date of this letter to exercise this right. If you wish to ask for a review, you may do so on Form 7, a copy of which is attached. Send the completed form to the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner, P.O. Box 181, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2M4.

Please be advised that a de-identified copy of this disclosure letter and the attached response to your FOIPOP application will be made public after 14 days. The package will be posted online at <https://openinformation.novascotia.ca/>. The letter will not include your name, address, or any other personal information that you have supplied while making your application under FOIPOP.

Please contact Melinda Frelick at 902-424-6920 or by e-mail at melinda.frelick@novascotia.ca, if you need further assistance regarding this application.

Sincerely,



Craig Beaton
Associate Deputy Minister