

June 23, 2026

OIPC File: F25-00648

*Delivered by email:* [CITZ.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CITZ.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Honourable Diana Gibson  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Gibson,

**Re: Collection & Reporting of Public Body FOI Metrics**

My office has completed a report on our research into the collection and reporting of public body FOI metrics. Our research identified over thirty jurisdictions, within and outside of Canada, that require public bodies to track and report FOI statistics, and nearly all of them have specific requirements in their FOI legislation or accompanying regulatory instruments (e.g. Codes of Practice), requiring public bodies to track FOI metrics.

We also learned that FOI metrics collection practices are largely guided by the requirements set out in legislation and without a legislative foundation, public bodies are unlikely to consistently record or report metrics. Our own pilot test further confirmed this, revealing significant gaps in FOI data collection across BC's public bodies, and in the absence of regulatory requirements and standardized tracking practices, they are not consistently recording or tracking their own FOI metrics.

As discussed in the report, there is a gap across the broader public sector in understanding how well public bodies' FOI systems are performing, resulting in a lack of openness, transparency, and accountability concerning the health of FOI in BC. I encourage you to read the report and kindly draw your attention to the first recommendation:

- *BC Government amend FIPPA to require public bodies to consistently track and report key FOI metrics to the OIPC*

Our findings indicate that clearly defined regulatory requirements for public bodies to track and report FOI metrics is needed in BC. Amending FIPPA to require public bodies to consistently track and report key FOI metrics to the OIPC would bring BC's FOI law in line with comparable jurisdictions with modernized FOI laws. I believe this will make public bodies more accountable

for the health of their FOI systems, leading to greater compliance with FIPPA and a stronger culture of transparency and openness regarding BC's FOI system.

I encourage you to closely examine this recommendation following the next statutory review of FIPPA, a process which will allow for broad engagement. My office intends to bring this subject forward to Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly during that review, along with what we have learned along the way, including what data we have collected, the challenges public bodies face tracking and reporting their FOI performance, and the health and transparency of BC's FOI system.

Please note that we intend to publish the report of our research into the collection and reporting of public body FOI metrics tomorrow morning. I also intend to publish a copy of this letter concurrent with the report.

Sincerely,



Michael Harvey  
Information and Privacy Commissioner  
for British Columbia

cc: Tanya Allen, Director, Audit & Systemic Review  
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia