

**From:** Skelton, Chad (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:CSkelton@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 4, 2014 11:10 AM  
**To:** Carwithen, Kelsie EHS:EX  
**Subject:** Need to talk to someone about BCAS response time data by Sept. 17

Hi Kelsie,

Just following up the voicemail I left you.

Back in May, I mentioned to you that we were interested in getting access to raw data on BC Ambulance Service response times and I was hoping you could setup a chat for me with one of the people who manages your data. I was hoping to discuss with them how BCAS response time data is collected, what formats it can be exported into, and what, if any, privacy concerns BCAS might have about the data.

In our dealings with various agencies over the years – from [ICBC](#) to [BC Transplant](#) – we’ve found it’s usually more productive, both for us and the agency involved, to negotiate access to data in good faith rather than going the FOI route. This is then reflected in our stories: We always indicate to our readers that the agency provided the data voluntarily rather than refusing to do so until they were forced to via an FOI request.

Since that first May chat, I’ve spoken with you twice more (in both mid-July and mid-August) and each time you told me that you should be able to set up something for me soon.

I appreciate that getting a hold of someone may have been difficult over the summer. But it’s now September and I see no reason why there shouldn’t be someone available who can discuss these matters with me now.

I would appreciate if you could arrange a phone interview for me with one of the people who manages BCAS response time data as soon as possible.

If you’re not able to do this by **Friday, Sept. 19**, we will go ahead and file an FOI request for the data in question.

**CHAD SKELTON**

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**PLEASE NOTE:** I work Wednesdays to Fridays and do not check email regularly on Mondays and Tuesdays.

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**From:** Carwithen, Kelsie EHS:EX [mailto:[Kelsie.Carwithen@bcehs.ca](mailto:Kelsie.Carwithen@bcehs.ca)]

**Sent:** September-09-14 2:03 PM

**To:** Skelton, Chad (Vancouver Sun)

**Subject:** RE: Need to talk to someone about BCAS response time data by Sept. 17

Hi Chad – thanks for your note. BCEHS is absolutely willing to provide this to you; however, the organization needs a bit more time to compile such a large data request. I have been told that this can be completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>, at which time BCEHS would provide you with a fulsome briefing and the raw data you are looking for. Does this work?

**Kelsie Carwithen**

Manager, Media Relations

BC Emergency Health Services

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email: [Kelsie.Carwithen@bcehs.ca](mailto:Kelsie.Carwithen@bcehs.ca)

**From:** Skelton, Chad (Vancouver Sun)  
**Sent:** September-10-14 3:45 PM  
**To:** 'Carwithen, Kelsie EHS:EX'  
**Subject:** RE: Need to talk to someone about BCAS response time data by Sept. 17

Hey Kelsie,

That sounds fine. Thanks.

Two quick follow-up points:

1. I work Wednesdays to Fridays so won't be here on the 30th (a Tuesday). So if we could schedule something for Wednesday, Oct. 1st or Thursday, Oct. 2nd, that would be ideal. I have a meeting first thing in the morning on the 1st but other than that I'm free.
2. While it would be great if you guys could actually provide me with raw data on that date, since you and I have only had a preliminary chat about what I want, I'm a bit worried about your data folks spending a lot of time getting the raw data ready for me only for me to discover that it's not quite what I'm looking for, is missing fields I need or it's not in the right file format. If it's relatively easy for your data folks to export raw data, then having it ready for the 1st or 2nd sounds great: It will give me something to look at and I'll be able to be more precise if I have any follow-up requests. But if producing the raw data is extremely time consuming for your data people, it might be better for me to just chat with them on the 1st or 2nd about what fields are in the data and what can be done before they get started.

**CHAD SKELTON**

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**From:** Skelton, Chad (Vancouver Sun)  
**Sent:** September-24-14 9:03 AM  
**To:** Kelsie.Carwithen@bcehs.ca  
**Subject:** FW: Need to talk to someone about BCAS response time data by Sept. 17

Hi Kelsie,

Should we setup a time next week for me to chat with your data people, then? We could do it by phone if that works for you. I'm busy first thing Wednesday morning but other than that I should be free anytime Wednesday after 11am or so, or anytime Thursday or Friday. Let me know what works for your folks.

**CHAD SKELTON**

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**From:** Carwithen, Kelsie EHS:EX [mailto:Kelsie.Carwithen@bcehs.ca]  
**Sent:** September-25-14 1:34 PM  
**To:** Skelton, Chad (Vancouver Sun)  
**Cc:** 'Toor, Muni (MToor@phsa.ca)'  
**Subject:** BCEHS Data Request - Update

Hi Chad,

Thanks for your note and for following up on the request for BCEHS data. We have been working to address your request; however, the task is proving to be larger than anticipated due to such a large data set. For this reason, your request will now be handled through the PHSA FOI office. Please note that BCEHS is absolutely willing to assist and is still open to providing a technical briefing as part of the FOI process.

I have cc'd Muni Toor from our FOI office to assist you from here. Muni can be reached at [MToor@phsa.ca](mailto:MToor@phsa.ca)

Many thanks,

**Kelsie Carwithen**  
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