



**MANITOBA
OMBUDSMAN**

REPORT ON THE RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

The City of Winnipeg
– Winnipeg Police
Service

Refusal of Access

Issue Date:
March 20, 2025

Case MO-00294/2021-2715



RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS

On February 27, 2025, the Ombudsman's Office issued a report with recommendations following the investigation of a complaint against the City of Winnipeg - Winnipeg Police Service (the WPS or the public body) about a refusal of access. The Ombudsman's Office made three recommendations:

Recommendation 1: The Ombudsman recommends that the City of Winnipeg - Winnipeg Police Service reconsider its decision to withhold the records in full and release the records, with the exception of information that could reasonably be expected to identify a WPS member or member of the public as outlined earlier in this report.

Recommendation 2: The Ombudsman recommends that the City of Winnipeg - Winnipeg Police Service conduct a line-by-line review of the records. In doing so, we recommend they apply reasonable severing to the information that could reasonably be expected to identify individuals, as discussed in this report.

Recommendation 3: Following the public body's reconsideration as described above, the Ombudsman recommends that the City of Winnipeg - Winnipeg Police Service issue a revised access decision to the complainant under section 12 of FIPPA and release the records with appropriate severing.

Subsection 66(4) of FIPPA required the WPS to respond in writing to the recommendations by March 14, 2025, and indicate whether the recommendations were accepted. On March 11, 2025 the WPS notified our office that it was accepting the recommendations and would be issuing a revised access decision.

Subsection 66(6) requires public bodies to comply with recommendations they accept within 15 days or within a period that the Ombudsman's Office considers reasonable.

Compliance with recommendations

66(6) *When the head of a public body accepts the recommendations in a report, the head shall comply with the recommendations*

(a) within 15 days of acceptance, if the complaint is about access under subsection 59(1), (2), (3.1) or (4); and

(b) within 45 days in any other case;

or within such additional period as the Ombudsman considers reasonable.

The WPS requested 60 days in addition to the legislated 15 days to issue the revised access decision given the number of responsive records, its current workload and staff availability. Our office reviewed this request and determined that it was reasonable in the circumstances.

CONCLUSION

The WPS complied with the time limit to respond in writing to our report and recommendations. The public body accepted the recommendations and requested additional time to comply with the recommendations. Our office agreed that the additional time was reasonable and set the due date for issuing the revised access decision as May 28, 2025.

March 20, 2025

Manitoba Ombudsman¹

¹ The Manitoba Ombudsman has delegated the authority to issue this report to the Manager of Access and Privacy Investigations under section 56 of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act due to a declared perceived conflict of interest.