Chatham-Kent Police Services Board

Headquarters - Chatham

All Correspondence to be addressed to the Chair



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August 20, 2020

Canadian Civil Liberties Association

Attention: Ms. Abby Deshman,

Director, Criminal Justice Program

Dear Ms. Deshman,

Re: Chatham-Kent Police Service's use of COVID database

I have spoken to Chief Gary Conn in regards to your concerns and can confirm that at no time did our members "download" any data from the COVID-19 web portal and as a result, did not store any said information seen, to any of our own records management systems. The few Chatham-Kent Police Service (CKPS) users that did access the portal, had view only permission.

I have every confidence that the members who had accessed the database did so for reasons permissible as per the parameters provided to us by the Ministry on or about April 27, 2020. Those parameters included, that the portal was, "Only intended to be used to look up the COVID-19 status of individuals that members of the police service will encounter or have encountered during the declared emergency as a result of responding to calls for service for the sole purpose of supporting frontline policing personnel, in making informed decisions about whether they need to take additional precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19."

We have not had access to the portal since July 20, 2020.

To be frank, Chief Conn advised me that they found the validity of the information on the portal to be unreliable from day one. This lack of confidence in the system can be best demonstrated by the very limited access our members did have while it was active until July 22, 2020 (108 times). That being said, an internal audit was completed on August 19, 2020 to confirm the aforementioned as stated in this correspondence.

I hope this summation of our use of the portal is satisfactory.

Yours truly,

Mr. Pat Weaver. Chair

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