



OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER
BUREAU DU DIRECTEUR PARLEMENTAIRE DU BUDGET

August 8, 2023

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of National Revenue
Canada Revenue Agency
555 MacKenzie Avenue, 7th Floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0L5

cra.minister-ministre.arc@cra-arc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0704

Dear Minister Bibeau:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent and non-partisan analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about matters related to the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates, certain other government documents, and the cost of proposals. In carrying out my mandate, I often require information held by government departments and Crown corporations and I am entitled to free and timely access – subject to limited exceptions – to such information under section 79.4 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

I am currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to paragraph 79.2(1)(f) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction at the request of a member of the Senate or of the House of Commons.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

- For each tax-filing season since the File My Return (FMR) service was introduced (which is the 2018 tax-filing season for the 2017 tax year), the number of letters that were sent to invite eligible taxpayers to use FMR. Given the Budget 2023 announcement to increase the number of eligible Canadians, please also provide the number of letters that are expected to be sent in future years (for all tax years where this information is available).
- For those that received an invitation letter to use FMR and did not use that method, the number of individuals who filed a return using another method (with a breakdown by method if possible) and the number who did not file a return (for each tax year).

- For each tax-filing season since the FMR service was introduced, the total cost incurred to administer the service, including the cost of the invitation letters sent to eligible taxpayers, the cost of operating the phone service allowing eligible taxpayers to auto-file their tax return and the cost of processing the tax returns received from the eligible taxpayers who used the service.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information to be provided to my office no later than **August 24, 2023**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you or your commissioner as soon as possible.

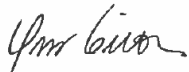
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Marianne Laurin can be contacted directly at Marianne.laurin@parl.gc.ca, 613-301-5191.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by August 24, 2023, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you or your commissioner must provide a written justification for the refusal as required under section 79.41 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

The response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". As well, the requested information should be attached separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons and promoting greater budget transparency and accountability are the PBO's primary objectives. The degree to which this is possible depends, to a large extent, on free and timely access to quality information held by government departments. In doing so, you are assisting us in better serving the Senate, the House of Commons, and their members.

Yours Sincerely,



Yves Giroux

Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Bob Hamilton, Commissioner of Revenue and Chief Executive Officer, Canada Revenue Agency

Attachment: Reply form for IR0704