



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

July 20th, 2022

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier
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: IR0654

Dear Minister Lebouthillier:

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 information regarding the Qualified Canadian Journalism (QCJO) designation.

Specifically,

- I would like to have the total number of newspapers, news magazines and online news businesses designated as QCJOs. The number should be at company level (not at individual titles level).
- I would also need the proportion of small, medium, and large companies within each category of news businesses (newspapers, news magazines and online news businesses). The size of the companies should be based on the total revenue as it is reported in schedule 125 of the T2, line 8299 see details below).
 - Total revenue equal or below the 33rd percentile, classify as small
 - Total revenue equal or below the 66th percentile and above the 33rd percentile, classify as medium

- Total revenue above the 66th percentile, classify as large
- For each news business category (newspapers, news magazines and online news businesses), please, provide the sum of total revenue (schedule 125 of the T2, line 8299) by size (small, medium, large).
- For each news business category (newspapers, news magazines and online news businesses), please, provide the sum of total expense (schedule 125 of the T2, line 9368) by size (small, medium, large).

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 3rd, 2022**. 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.

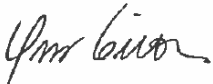
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Rolande Kpekou Tossou can be contacted directly at Rolande.KpekouTossou@parl.gc.ca, 613-617-5709.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by August 3rd, 2022, 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 IR0654