



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

February 21st, 2024

The Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street, Building EMB, Room 4121
Ottawa ON K1A 0H8

arif.virani@parl.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0762

Dear Minister Virani:

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)(b) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to prepare reports on matters of particular significance relating to the nation's finances or economy that are listed in an annual work plan.

For this analysis, I am requesting:

1. Total cost to the organization due to asylum claimants (including from the organization's permanent/ongoing funding and/or temporary/additional funding sources) since 2016 (if possible, by country of origin of the claimant), broken down by fixed and variable costs.
2. Average cost (this can be for the most recent fiscal year) per asylum claimant (if possible, by country of origin of the claimant).
3. Average wait time per refugee claimant from application for judicial review to final decision.
4. Organization's capacity to handle refugee claimant applications, on an annual basis.
5. Any projections available on the future cost to the organizations related to refugee claimants.

6. Number of refugee proceedings in Canada since 2016 by country of origin of the claimant and final decision.
7. Number of refugee proceedings in Canada since 2016 by country of origin of the claimant and province
8. Number of eligible asylum claimants, seeking legal aid (if possible, by country of origin of the claimant).
9. Legal aid hourly tariffs and average billable hours for provinces providing refugee legal aid.

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 **March 6th, 2024**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you or your deputy minister as soon as possible.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Lisa Barkova can be contacted directly at Lisa.Barkova@parl.gc.ca, 613-295-2908.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by March 6th, 2024, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you or your deputy minister 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
Shalene Curtis-Micallef, Deputy Minister of Justice, Justice Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0762