



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

July 10th, 2023

The Honourable Anita Anand
Minister of National Defence
National Defence
101 Colonel By Drive
13th Floor, North Tower
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2

Dnd_mnd@forces.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0699

Dear Minister Anand:

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 subparagraph 79.2(1)(c)(iv) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to undertake research on the nation's finances and economy at the request of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates of the House of Commons.

For this analysis, I require an update on information received from the Department of National Defence on the list of capital projects budgeted in the Strong Secure Engaged (SSE) defence policy. My office last received an update on this file in December 2021; I would like an update on any changes in terms of the accrual and cash profile of SSE projects that have occurred since that time. This should include any changes to cost estimates, schedule changes, etc., that would affect the cash or accrual profile of the included projects.

Differently from previous requests on this file, I also request a reconciliation of previous year capital expenditures under SSE with the totals published by National Defence in Canada's Public Accounts.

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 **July 31st, 2023**. 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, Christopher Penney can be contacted directly at Christopher.Penney@parl.gc.ca, 613-294-2756.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by July 31st, 2023, 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,



Chris Matier, for

Yves Giroux

Parliamentary Budget Officer

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

Bill Matthews, Deputy Minister, National Defence

Attachment: Reply form for IR0699