



August 20, 2013

[See IR0128 distributon list]

Re: PBO Information Request IR128: Cost of implementing a new estimates reporting and control model

Dear *[salutation]*:

This information request is being sent to you in order to answer a parliamentarian request to provide an independent cost estimate of the government's proposal to implement a new estimates and voting structure (a parliamentary control structure) to permit Parliament to vote on supply at the Strategic Outcome and/or Program Activity level.

Minister Clement has presented a proposed cost and implementation plan to the House of Commons Operations and Estimates Committee in a letter dated April 16, 2013.

Our preliminary research indicates that a key cost driver in this proposal would be the increased frequency with which Departments would have to obtain approval from Parliament for transfers in expenditure authority between Program Activities if this were to be adopted as the new control structure.

As you know, requests for parliamentary approval for these transfers are accomplished via Treasury Board. In order to fulfill the request, please provide my office with your department's estimate of its cost to process a Treasury Board submission for authority transfers, as well as its estimate of the cost of its financial management function.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my staff if any clarification is required.

Yours truly,

[signature]

Sonia L'Heureux
Parliamentary Budget Officer (interim)

c.c.: Rick Stewart, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy



PBO Information Request

REQUEST NUMBER: IR0128

PBO CONTACT NAME: Peter Weltman (613) 218-1854 or peter.weltman@parl.gc.ca.

TYPE OF REQUEST: One-time

PRIORITY: Priority

DATE REQUEST SENT: August 20, 2013

RESPONSE REQUIRED BY: ~~September 3, 2013~~ Extension granted to September 10, 2013

PBO OBJECTIVE:

To provide an independent cost estimate for the implementation of a new Parliamentary control structure for the government's estimates.

RELATION TO MANDATE:

Pursuant to s. 79.2, to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction.

INFORMATION AND DATA REQUESTED:

Data, assumptions and methodology used to support the cost estimate.