



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

March 28th, 2024

The Honourable Bill Blair
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: IR0767

Dear Minister Blair:

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 a detailed breakdown of the inputs, constituent elements, and calculation steps involved in arriving at the Department's calculation of the Government of Canada's total military expenditures, commensurate with the official NATO definition of military expenditure. This data should include a detailing of military spending attributed to other government departments. I request this data for fiscal years 2020-2021 to present, inclusive of its existing projection for the current fiscal year (2023-24).

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 **April 22nd, 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.

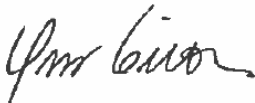
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Albert Kho can be contacted directly at Albert.kho@parl.gc.ca, 613-292-7472.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by April 22nd, 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

Bill Matthews, Deputy Minister, National Defence

Attachment: Reply form for IR0767