



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

March 21st, 2023

The Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
365 Laurier Avenue West
20th Floor
Ottawa ON K1A 1L1

IRCC.Minister-Ministre.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0680

Dear Minister Fraser:

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.

My office is currently updating the 2018 report "[Costing Irregular Migration across Canada's Southern Border](#)".

For this analysis, I am requesting data from the following organizations under the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship:

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; and
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.

Please provide data for each organization regarding the costs associated with irregular migration, including all the steps in which the organization is involved in the asylum claims process. Further details regarding requested data can be found in the attached appendix.

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 11th, 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.

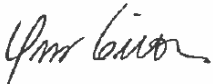
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jill Giswold can be contacted directly at Jill.Giswold@parl.gc.ca, 613-297-3856.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by April 11th, 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,



Yves Giroux

Parliamentary Budget Officer

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

Christiane Fox, Deputy Minister, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0680

Appendix A

Please provide the following data related to irregular migration, annually since 2017:

- Total cost to each organization due to irregular migration (including from the organization's permanent/ongoing funding and/or temporary/additional funding sources),. Please provide these costs by:
 - Standard object; and
 - Fixed and variable costs.
- Average cost (this can be for the most recent fiscal year) for each step in which the organization is involved, including
 - Interception, claim and initial screening;
 - Hearing at IRB (RPD);
 - Appeal at IRB (RAD);
 - Interim Federal Health Program (annual);
 - Pre-removal risk assessments;
 - Removal;
 - Detention reviews and admissibility hearings.
- Average wait time per irregular migrant at each step.
- Any data on the percent of irregular migrants at each step of the process (for example, what percent of irregular migrants have an RPD hearing, RAD hearing, etc.).
- Organization's capacity, on an annual basis, at each step.
- Split/ratio of cases processed by the CBSA/IRCC for irregular migration claims.
- Proportion of irregular migrants who have legal counsel at IRB hearings.
- Transfers to provinces and/or municipalities due to irregular migration.
- Any projections available on the future cost to the organizations related to irregular migration.