



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

13 December 2018

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

Harjit.Sajjan@parl.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0403

Dear Minister Sajjan:

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 documents 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.

On September 18, 2018, I sent you Information Request IR0385 concerning costs surrounding the proposed acquisition of used Australian F-18 fighter aircraft.

The original Information Request asked for detailed historical operations and maintenance data. In light of developments concerning the lack of availability of this historical data, we have decided to narrow our request to the following:

- Historical National Procurement (NP) cost data for the CF-18 fleet, covering the 2010 to 2018 fiscal years.
- Historical Aviation, Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant (AvPOL) cost data for the CF-18 fleet, covering the 2010 to 2018 fiscal years. This should include the standard AvPOL metrics such as total litres consumed and average cost per litre for each year.
- Historical Flying Hours for the CF-18 fleet, covering the 2010 to 2018 fiscal years.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **8 January 2019**. 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 8 January 2019, 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.: Katharine Rechico, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Jody Thomas, Deputy Minister, National Defence

Attachment: Reply form for IR0403