



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

April 19th, 2024

The Honourable Marc Miller
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Minto Place, Canada Building
344 Slater Street, 12th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K1

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

Information Request: IR0771

Dear Minister Miller:

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 the total cost to the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) due to asylum claimants, the average cost per asylum claimant for each step in which the IRB is involved as well as any projections available on the future cost to the organization related to asylum claimants. In addition, I am requesting statistics on processed claims by both the Refugee Protection Division and the Refugee Appeal Division for asylum claimants arriving to Canada with an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA). Finally, I am requesting the maximum allowed number of appeals one asylum claimant can file and the average number of appeals per asylum claimant. The details of the request are outlined in the 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 **May 3rd, 2024**. If access to the requested information cannot be

granted by that date, a response must be provided by you or the President of the IRB as soon as possible.

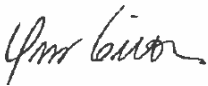
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Lisa Barkova can be contacted directly at Lisa.Barkova@parl.gc.ca, 613-295-2908.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by May 3rd, 2024, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you or the President of the IRB 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

Manon Brassard, President, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0771