



8 May 2018

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister
Foreign Affairs Canada
125 Sussex Drive
Building Lester B Pearson Tower A
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G2

Chrystia.Freeland@international.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0371

Dear Minister Freeland:

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.

For this analysis, I am asking/requesting the following information on Military personnel and Foreign Service personnel. Specifically, these personnel who:

- Are stationed abroad and
- Have their spouse or common-law partner living abroad with them.

For these personnel, PBO requests the following data, if available:

- Number of personnel as identified above
- Duration of overseas assignment
- Net family income
- Salary of spouse/common-law partner

- Number of hours of insurable employment of spouse/common-law partner
- Postal code of Canadian residence of spouse/common-law partner.

If data for the spouse/common-law partner is not available, PBO requests the same information for the military personnel and foreign service personnel in lieu of this information.

Lastly, PBO also requests projected numbers of personnel that will be stationed abroad, if available.

PBO is requesting data for the most recent period available.

Based on the nature of this request and the analysis I am undertaking, I believe a reasonable deadline would be **25 May 2018**. If access to the request information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you, by the appropriate deputy minister or designate, or by the person occupying a similar position.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Negash Haile can be contacted directly at negash.haile@parl.gc.ca 613-996-0787.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 25 May 2018, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, the appropriate deputy minister or the person occupying a similar position 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.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons for the purposes of raising the quality of parliamentary debate and promoting greater budget transparency and accountability is the PBO's primary objective. 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,



Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Katharine Rechico, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Ian Shugart, Deputy Minister, Foreign Affairs Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0371