



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

April 8, 2021

The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Minister of Health  
Health Canada  
70 Colombine Driveway, Tunney's Pasture  
15th Floor, Room 1526B, Mail Stop 0915B  
Brooke Claxton Building,  
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

hcminister.ministresc@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0590

Dear Minister Hajdu:

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)(a) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to prepare reports analyzing the following federal government documents: (i) a budget tabled by or on behalf of the Minister of Finance; (ii) an economic and fiscal update or statement issued by the Minister of Finance; (iii) a fiscal sustainability report issued by the Minister of Finance; (iv) the estimates of the government for a fiscal year.

For this analysis, I am requesting additional information regarding measures captured under information request IR0528, which requested data regarding existing and future measures taken by your organization in response to COVID-19. Specifically, I am seeking the breakdown of activities and their corresponding expenditures to date under:

- Medical Research and Vaccines; and
- Medical Countermeasures.

It is requested that this information be added to the existing monthly reporting for IR0528 going forward.

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 30, 2021**. The information can be included with the monthly update to IR0528. 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.

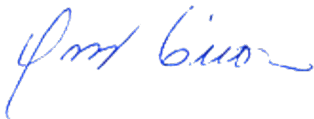
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jill Giswold can be contacted directly at [Jill.Giswold@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jill.Giswold@parl.gc.ca), 613-297-3856.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by April 30, 2021, 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

Stephen Lucas, Deputy Minister, Health Canada

Iain Stewart, President, Public Health Agency of Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0590