



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

May 19, 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: IR0693

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)(f) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction at the request of a member of the Senate or of the House of Commons.

For this analysis, I am requesting:

- Any Government estimates regarding the cost to develop, implement and maintain the online passport renewal service, as announced in May 2023. Please include any details on the methodology and data used, such as:
 - Number of passports being renewed, on an annual basis.
 - Assumptions on how many passports will be renewed using the online service.
- Any Government estimates regarding potential savings, such as:
 - Cost to process a passport renewal online.
 - Cost to process a passport renewal using the current methods.

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 **June 2nd, 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, Jason Stanton can be contacted directly at Jason.Stanton@parl.gc.ca, 613-790-1457.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by June 2nd, 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 IR0693