



22 June 2016

Ms. Yaprak Baltacioglu, Secretary of the Treasury Board of Canada
Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
140 O'Connor Street
East Tower, 9th Floor
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G5
yaprak.baltacioglu@tbs-sct.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0223

Dear Ms. Baltacioglu:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates of the government, and the cost of programs, legislation, and policies. In carrying out its mandate, the PBO often requires access to information held by government departments. When such information is needed, the PBO makes a request to the department holding the information.

The PBO is currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to section 79.2(d) 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 or committee of either a House or a joint committee of both Houses.

In pursuing this work, the PBO would ask that, pursuant to section 79.3 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, you provide access to the following information in the context of the Official Languages Regulations:

- The estimated incremental cost of providing bilingual points of service on the assumption that section 5 of the Official Languages (Communications with and Services to the Public) Regulations was amended to remove the reference to "persons of the English or French linguistic minority population" and replace it with "persons who have chosen response #3 of question 7 of the 2011 census, i.e., those that have indicated that they can converse in either English or French.
- The basis of estimate (i.e. the assumptions and calculations made to support the estimate).
- Any distributional output that would be available.

We would appreciate that you provide access to this information by 6 July 2016. If we do not hear back from you by that date, we may consider your non-response a deemed refusal and, accordingly, report it to our named committees as instructed.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 6 July 2016, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. The details contained in the reply form will assist us in preparing the PBO annual report.

Your response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". Could you please attach the requested information separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Peter Weltman can be contacted directly at Peter.Weltman@parl.gc.ca, 613-218-1854.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons 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.: Mr. Douglas Nevison, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Attachment: Reply form for IR0223