



28 November 2014

Mr. Richard Fadden, Deputy Minister  
National Defence  
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Information Request: IR0174 – follow-up

Dear Mr. Fadden:

Thank you for your response letter dated 18 November 2014.

As you will be aware, Cabinet confidence exists to allow for free and frank discussion of problems that come before Cabinet by allaying fear that the positions individual members take will be held against them, thereby preserving the collective responsibility of ministers. It does not, in this case, apply to the data provided to Cabinet.

If the data were presented to Cabinet, they would form part of the substance of what the legislation refers to as a discussion paper. While, accordingly, it is possible that the data may receive some protection as such, the decision to engage in military operations has been made and, therefore, the data can no longer receive protection under s 69(3)(b)(i) of the *Access to Information Act*. That provision allows the factual basis for Cabinet decisions to be disclosed following the making public of the decision to which they relate.

Cabinet confidence also does not, for requests from the Parliamentary Budget Office, apply where the data is contained in any other record as provided in s 79(3)(2)(b) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*. I would expect that your status as an accounting officer within the framework of the *Financial Administration Act* would mean you would, in the ordinary course of events, develop such an estimate to satisfy yourself that the department has adequate funding in order to carry out the policy. If this is the case, the data is contained in another record and, therefore, is not exempt from disclosure pursuant to s. 79(3)(2)(b).

I would ask that you provide the requested data to me as soon as possible. The House of Commons passed its motion authorizing Canada's 6-month mission against ISIL on 3 October 2014. That six month authorization is now over a quarter expended. It is incumbent upon me to provide the Senate and House of Commons with an estimate of its cost forthwith.

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