



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

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Honourable Bill Blair  
Minister of National Defence  
National Defence  
101 Colonel By Drive  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor, North Tower  
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2

[Dnd\\_mnd@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Dnd_mnd@forces.gc.ca)

Information Request: IR0792

Dear Minister Blair:

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)(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 requesting the Department's annual projections of total military spending from 2025 through the 2032 target year for attaining the 2% of GDP military expenditure threshold and the associated forecast of nominal GDP.

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 **August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. 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 Jacques can be contacted directly at [jason.jacques@parl.gc.ca](mailto:jason.jacques@parl.gc.ca), 613-853-1596.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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.: Michael Gauvreau, Privy Council Office, Acting Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Stefanie Beck, Deputy Minister, National Defence

Attachment: Reply form for IR0792