



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

6 December 2018

The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister
National Defence
101 Colonel By Drive
13th Floor, North Tower
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0K2

Harjit.Sajjan@parl.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0399

Dear Minister Sajjan:

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 documents 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 the following information:

Information explaining the data and methodology on the cost estimates for Operation REASSURANCE as reported in the Fall Economic Statement 2018 by Finance Canada. Additionally, I request the following:

- Any information on the force mix between reserve personnel and regular forces; for example, whether reserve personnel salary is fully included in the cost estimate and whether the incremental cost of regular personnel is included.
- Information on whether the depreciation of capital assets (i.e., deployed defence materiel) is included and if so, how it was accounted for.
- Information on what specifically is included in the cost estimate, i.e., whether the costs include the RCAF and RCN elements deployed to the operation.
- Information on how costs pertaining to the reported increase in army personnel (up to 540) were calculated.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **18 December 2018**. 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, Christopher Penney can be contacted directly at Christopher.Penney@parl.gc.ca 613-294-2756.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 18 December 2018, 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.: Katharine Rechico, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Jody Thomas, Deputy minister, National Defence

Attachment: Reply form for IR0399