



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

March 12<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

Information Request: IR0766

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)(e) 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 committee of either a House or a joint committee of both Houses.

I am carrying out an updated costing analysis of the Government of Canada's procurement of Polar Icebreakers. To inform this costing, our team has identified the Joint Support Ship (JSS) and the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship (AOPS) programs as relevant data sources. To this end, I am requesting the following information:

- Information on project timelines and assumptions for each program;
- The realized costs, by fiscal year, of the full production cycle associated with the two vessels of the JSS program, as well as the first four vessels of the AOPS program, along with relevant details on labour and material costs, the cost of initial spares, and the cost of installed equipment for each program;
- The estimated costs, by fiscal year, for the remainder of the two programs, including projected expenditures associated with vessels not yet delivered to the Royal Canadian Navy;

- A high level detailing of the JSS and AOPS platforms' general characteristics, including displacement (both lightship and full-load displacement), dimensions, major systems (i.e. propulsion), complement, endurance, range, and speed;
- A summary of any outstanding financial risks and exposures associated with either program, as available; and,
- Explanations for any significant differences in the project timelines presented to the PBO through [IR0501](#) in 2020 for the JSS and [IR0607](#) in 2021 for the AOPS.

Please clearly identify what portion of the information provided reflects changes relative to the information previously provided to the PBO through IR0501 in 2020 and IR0607 in 2021.

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 **April 2<sup>nd</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.

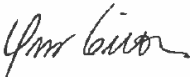
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Mark Creighton can be contacted directly at [Mark.creighton@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Mark.creighton@parl.gc.ca), 613-795-1651.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by April 2<sup>nd</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.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Bill Matthews, Deputy Minister, National Defence

Attachment: Reply form for IR0766

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