

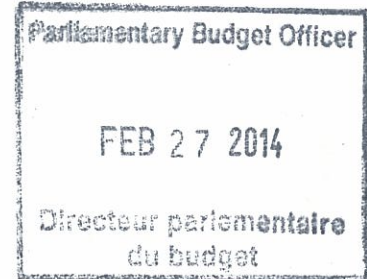


Canada Revenue Agency Agence du revenu du Canada

Commissioner Commissaire

FEB 27 2014

Mr. Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer
Library of Parliament
Parliament of Canada
Ottawa ON K1A 0A9



Dear Mr. Fréchette:

I am writing in response to your letter of February 21, 2014, concerning PBO information request IR0102, an estimate of Canada's tax gap, in which you refer to ongoing discussions between our staff in regards to the provision of taxpayer data to your office by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

As you are aware, Section 241 of the *Income Tax Act* (ITA) prohibits the disclosure of confidential taxpayer information to any person unless specifically authorized by the Act. As the ITA does not authorize the CRA to release this information to the PBO, we cannot provide such information to your staff, either in file format or through direct access to our own systems.

I would like to reiterate what I stated to you in my letter to you dated August 1, 2013. The CRA can provide aggregate data that, broken down by various factors such as geography or industry, responds to your request. Producing anonymized data requires the dedication of significant resources and also produces a risk of residual disclosure when data is highly skewed and as such, taxpayers could possibly be easily identified from other information that is publicly available.

I have asked the Assistant Commissioner of the CRA's Strategy and Integration Branch, Catherine Bennett, who is responsible for our statistics program, to personally meet with you and explain our position, as well as to hear your perspective. I believe she has already been in touch with your office to make these arrangements.

Sincerely,

Andrew Treusch

c.c. Mr. Rick Stewart
Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet
Privy Council Office

Mr. Michael Horgan
Deputy Minister
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