



26 August 2014

Ms. Mary Chaput, Deputy Minister
Veterans Affairs Canada
66 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0P4

mary.chaput@vac-acc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0161

Dear Ms. Chaput:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates of the government, and the cost of programs, legislation, and policies. In carrying out its mandate, the PBO often requires access to information held by government departments. When such information is needed, the PBO makes a request to the department holding the information.

The PBO is currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to section 79.2(a) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to "provide independent analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about the state of the nation's finances, the estimates of the government and trends in the national economy."

In pursuing this work, the PBO would ask that, pursuant to section 79.3 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, you provide access to the following information:

- Access to anonymized, disaggregated client payment data for disability pension and/or disability award recipients with mental health condition(s) as far back as currently available within VAC.

We would appreciate that you provide access to this information by 11 September 2014.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 11 September 2014, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. The details contained in the reply form will assist us in preparing the PBO annual report.

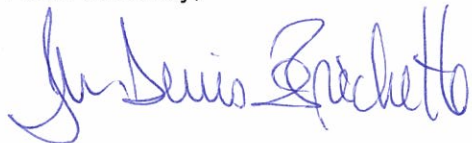
Your response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". Could you please attach the requested information separately.

If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Erin Barkel can be contacted directly at <mailto:erin.barkel@parl.gc.ca>, or at 613-355-8467.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons is the PBO's primary objective. 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,



Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Mr. Douglas Nevison, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Attachment: Reply form for IR0161