



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

13 January 2020

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister  
Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada  
269 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0P8

[hon.bill.blair@canada.ca](mailto:hon.bill.blair@canada.ca)

Information Request: IR0443

Dear Mr. 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 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)(f) 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 member of the Senate or of the House of Commons.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

Additional information/data regarding the buy back program for military-style assault rifles. More specifically,

- Overview of the program (including details of the eligibility criteria and amnesty period);
- List of the types of assault rifles that would be eligible for this program;
- Data on the number of these assault rifles that are currently owned in Canada, by type; and,
- Data on the average market price and annual volume of sales for these assault rifles, by type.

In addition, any information/data regarding the projected cost of the program, and how it was calculated, such as:

- Number of assault rifles;
- Average price; and,
- Additional costs to administer the program.

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 **3 February 2020**. 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 Stanton can be contacted directly at [Jason.Stanton@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jason.Stanton@parl.gc.ca), 613-790-1457.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 3 February 2020, 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  
Mr. Rob Stewart, Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada [rob.stewart@canada.ca](mailto:rob.stewart@canada.ca)

Attachment: Reply form for IR0443