

November 4, 2011

Mr. Neil Yeates
Deputy Minister
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

RE: PBO Information Request 0054

Dear Mr. Yeates:

We have received a request to estimate the fiscal impact of Bill C-4, An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, the Balanced Refugee Reform Act and the Marine Transportation Security Act.

Pursuant to my mandate 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, as provided for by the Parliament of Canada Act, s 79.2(a), I am requesting the following information from your department:

- The average processing time for applications for refugee status in Canada (as a Convention refugee or a person in need of protection), from the time when the individual arrives in Canada to when they are either granted status or deported. This includes the processing time for the refugee application, as well as any applications or appeals made to senior immigration officers, to the Immigration and Refugee Board, or to any Canadian court.
- The average processing time for applications for refugee status in Canada (as a Convention refugee or a person in need of protection) for those individuals that arrived in Canada as an irregular migrant in a group that would be eligible for designation as an "irregular arrival" under the proposed amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act in Bill C-4 in the last ten years. This includes the processing time for the refugee application, as well as any applications or appeals made to senior immigration officers, to the Immigration and Refugee Board, or to any Canadian court.
- Data on the nature and duration of detention for detained refugee applicants as well as the costs of that detention by province or area of the country.
- Data on the nature and duration of detention for detained refugee applicants arrived in Canada as an irregular migrant in a group that would be eligible for designation as an "irregular arrival" under the proposed amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act in Bill C-4, as well as the costs of that detention by province or area of the country.

- The number of irregular migrants that have arrived in Canada in groups that would be eligible for designation as an “irregular arrival” under the proposed amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act in Bill C-4 in the last ten years.

My office will use this information as part of its study into the costs of Bill C-4, the “Preventing Human Smugglers from Abusing Canada's Immigration System Act.”

Please let us know if any part of this request requires clarification.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Page".

Kevin Page
Parliamentary Budget Officer

Encl.

c.c.: Rick Stewart, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

PBO Information Request

1) Request Number:	IR0054
2) PBO Contact Name:	Tolga Yalkin 613-947-0561 or tolga.yalkin@parl.gc.ca
3) Type of Request:	One-time
4) PBO Objective:	Estimate of the fiscal impact of bill C-4.
5) Relation to Mandate:	The PBO is mandated under the <i>Parliament of Canada Act</i> to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction.
6) Information and Data Requested:	Data related to Bill C-4 - Preventing Human Smugglers from Abusing Canada's Immigration System Act
7) Priority:	Normal
8) Date Request Sent:	Nov 4, 2011
9) Response Required By:	Nov 18, 2011