



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

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

The Honourable David Lametti  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
Justice Canada  
284 Wellington Street,  
Building EMB, Room 4121  
Ottawa ON K1A 0H8

david.lametti17@justice.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0678

Dear Minister Lametti:

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)(b) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to prepare reports on matters of particular significance relating to the nation's finances or economy that are listed in an annual work plan.

My office is currently updating the 2018 report "[Costing Irregular Migration across Canada's Southern Border](#)".

For this analysis, I am requesting the following data related to irregular migration, by fiscal year since 2017 (if possible):

- Number of eligible asylum claimants, specifically irregular migrants, seeking legal aid.
- Legal aid hourly tariffs and average billable hours for provinces providing immigration and refugee legal aid.
- Number of immigration and refugee proceedings in Canada, by province.
- Total cost to the organization due to irregular migration (including from the organization's permanent/ongoing funding and/or temporary/additional funding sources), since 2017. Please provide these costs by:

- Standard object; and
- Fixed and variable costs.
- Number of rejected refugee claims, specifically irregular migrants, that have requested the Federal Court of Canada to review the decision, and associated costs.
- Any projections available on the future cost to the organization related to irregular migration.

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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. 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.

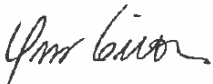
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jill Giswold can be contacted directly at [Jill.Giswold@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jill.Giswold@parl.gc.ca), 613-297-3856.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 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

Shalene Curtis-Micallef, Deputy Minister of Justice, Justice Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0678