



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

23 January 2020

The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister
National Defence
101 Colonel By Drive
13th Floor, North Tower
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0K2

harjit.sajjan@forces.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0446

Dear Minister Sajjan:

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)(a) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to prepare reports analyzing the following federal government documents: (i) a budget tabled by or on behalf of the Minister of Finance; (ii) an economic and fiscal update or statement issued by the Minister of Finance; (iii) a fiscal sustainability report issued by the Minister of Finance; (iv) the estimates of the government for a fiscal year.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

An update on information received from the Department of National Defence on the list of projects budgeted in the Strong Secure Engaged (SSE) defence policy. My office last received an update on this matter in July 2019; I would like an update on any changes in terms of the accrual and cash profile of SSE projects that have occurred since that time. This should include any changes to cost estimates, schedule changes, etc., that would affect the cash or accrual profile of the included projects. Relevant updates to the associated In-Service Support (ISS) cash outlays are also required.

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 **7 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, Christopher Penney can be contacted directly at Christopher.Penney@parl.gc.ca 613-294-2756.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 7 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
Jody Thomas, Deputy Minister, National Defence

Attachment: Reply form for IR0446