



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

February 20th, 2024

The Honourable Dominic Leblanc
Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs
For Canada Border Services Agency
191 Laurier Avenue West, 6th Floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0L8

ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@ps-sp.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0761

Dear Minister Leblanc:

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.

For this analysis, I am requesting:

1. Total cost to CBSA due to asylum claimants (including from the organization's permanent/ongoing funding and/or temporary/additional funding sources) since 2016 by country of origin of the claimant, provided by:
 - Standard object; and
 - Fixed and variable costs.
2. Average cost (this can be for the most recent fiscal year) for each step in which the organization is involved (if available by country of origin of the claimant), including
 - Claim and initial screening;
 - Hearing at IRB (Refugee Protection Division);
 - Appeal at IRB (Refugee Appeal Division);
 - Interim Federal Health Program (annual);
 - Pre-removal risk assessments;

- Removal;
 - Detention reviews and admissibility hearings.
3. Average wait time per refugee claimant arriving to the airports with Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) at each step (if available by country of origin of the claimant).
 4. Any data on the percent of refugee claimants arriving to the airports with eTA at each step of the process if available by country of origin of the claimant (for example, what percent of refugee claimants arriving to the airports with eTA have a detention review, admissibility hearing, etc.).
 5. Organization's capacity, on an annual basis, at each step.
 6. Split/ratio of cases processed by the CBSA/IRCC for migration claims of refugee claimants arriving to the airports with eTA (if available by country of origin of the claimant).
 7. Any projections available on the future cost to the organizations related to refugee claimants arriving to the airports with eTA.
 8. Number of asylum claimants arriving through eTA and through other methods since 2016 by country of origin of the claimant at all steps of the asylum process (subject to CBSA being involved in that step):
 - Claim and initial screening;
 - Hearing at IRB (Refugee Protection Division);
 - Appeal at IRB (Refugee Appeal Division);
 - Interim Federal Health Program (annual);
 - Pre-removal risk assessments;
 - Removal;
 - Detention reviews and admissibility hearings.

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 **March 5th, 2024**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you or your president as soon as possible.

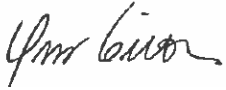
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Lisa Barkova can be contacted directly at Lisa.Barkova@parl.gc.ca, 613-295-2908.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by March 5th, 2024, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you or your president 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

Erin O'Gorman, President of the Canada Border Services Agency

Attachment: Reply form for IR0761

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