



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

May 23rd, 2024

The Honourable Pascale St-Onge
Minister of Canadian Heritage
Canadian Heritage
25 Eddy Street, 12th Floor, Mail Stop: 25-12-0
Gatineau QC K1A 0M5
pascale.st-ong@pch.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0784

Dear Minister St-Onge:

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)(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 pertaining to Bill C-63, introduced in the House of Commons on February 26:

- The estimated setup costs associated with the Digital Safety Commission of Canada, the Digital Safety Ombudsperson of Canada, and the Digital Safety Office of Canada;
- The projected total spending and number of full-time equivalent staff for the Commission, Ombudsperson, and Office for the fiscal years 2023-2024 to 2028-2029; and
- The projected number of annual complaints and investigations, and the projected value of fines imposed by the Commission for the fiscal years 2023-2024 to 2028-2029.

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 **June 10th, 2024**. 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, Zachary Vrhovsek can be contacted directly at Zachary.Vrhovsek@parl.gc.ca, 613-298-2328.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by June 10th, 2024, 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

Isabelle Mondou, Deputy Minister, Canadian Heritage

Attachment: Reply form for IR0784