



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

June 19, 2020

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

harjit.sajjan@forces.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0501

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 subparagraph 79.2(1)(c)(iv) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to undertake research on the nation's finances and economy at the request of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates of the House of Commons.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates of the House of Commons has requested that the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer undertake a costing analysis of building the Joint Support Ship (JSS) in Canada and leasing the Asterix.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information and data on the Joint Support Ship program:

- Information on project timelines and assumptions;
- Relevant cost data such as estimated labour and material costs, cost of initial spares and equipment;

- Information on costs already incurred over the project lifespan;
- A summary of the financial risks and exposures associated with the project;
- A high-level detailing of the JSS platform's general characteristics, including displacement (both lightship displacement and full-load), dimensions, major systems (i.e., propulsion, armament), complement, endurance, range, and speed.

I am requesting the following information and data on the acquisition and lease of the MV Asterix:

- Information on total acquisition costs, including detail on procurement and conversion costs to the extent possible;
- All relevant cost information contained in the lease contract, including a detail of the scope of activities offered by the contractor;
- Information on either the option to purchase or otherwise extend the lease of the MV Asterix;
- A high-level detailing of the MV Asterix's general characteristics, including displacement (both lightship displacement and full-load), dimensions, major systems (i.e., propulsion, armament), complement, endurance, range, and speed;
- Any information on the cost of the proposed procurement, leasing, and purchase option of a second supply ship.

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 **July 6, 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.

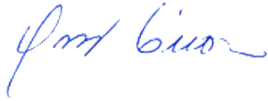
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Christopher Penney can be contacted directly at Christopher.Penney@parl.gc.ca, 613-294-2756.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by July 6, 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 IR0501