



10 August 2018

The Honourable Judy Wilson-Raybould, Minister
Justice and Attorney General of Canada
294 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8
Jody.Wilson-Raybould@parl.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0378

Dear Minister Wilson-Raybould:

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:

- Number of eligible asylum claimants seeking legal aid from the Department of Justice.
- Federal expenditures on legal aid for eligible asylum claimants.
- Number of eligible asylum claimants, specifically irregular migrants, seeking legal aid from the Department of Justice.
- Federal expenditures on legal aid for eligible asylum claimants, specifically irregular migrants.

The requested data should be provided, on a monthly basis, for the past five fiscal years, as well as any projections for the next five fiscal years.

Based on the nature of this request and the analysis I am undertaking, I believe a reasonable deadline would be **24 August 2018**. If access to the request information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you, by the appropriate deputy minister or designate, or by the person occupying a similar position.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jason Stanton can be contacted directly at jason.stanton@parl.gc.ca 613-790-1457.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 24 August 2018, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, the appropriate deputy minister or the person occupying a similar position 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.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons for the purposes of raising the quality of parliamentary debate and promoting greater budget transparency and accountability is the PBO's primary objective. 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,

for M. Askari

Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Steven Kuhn, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Nathalie Drouin, Deputy Minister, Justice Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0378