



10 May 2016

Mr. John Forster, Deputy Minister  
National Defence  
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Ottawa, ON  
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Information Request: IR0221

Dear Mr. Forster:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates of the government, and the cost of programs, legislation, and policies. In carrying out its mandate, the PBO often requires access to information held by government departments. When such information is needed, the PBO makes a request to the department holding the information.

The PBO is currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to section 79.2(d) 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 or committee of either a House or a joint committee of both Houses.

In pursuing this work, the PBO would ask that, pursuant to section 79.3 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, you provide access to the following information:

This is a follow-up to information request IR0215 "CSC Documents" of March 2, 2016.

There are four separate items that are being requested in this information request:

1. SOR: The DND response to IR0215 stated that the Statement of Operational Requirements (SOR) for the Canadian Surface Combatant (CSC) "are classified as Secret" and cannot be shared. That being said, one option would be a high-level less detailed version of the CSC SOR which would not be classified as secret and could be shared with the PBO. The level of detail required by the PBO is similar to the level of detail published by the US Navy for its ships (see attached). Regarding the potential of the information to influence negotiations with third-party vendors, a higher level abstraction that states the generic functionality of a system rather than a specific vendor could be used. For example, Wide Area Air defence radar with a range of X kilometres rather than stating "vendor X, version Y". Another option is to list the specific systems being considered and state that the PBO is prohibited from releasing the information pursuant to section 79.4 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*. For example, if DND is considering the "vendor X,

version Y radar", it can be costed accordingly but the PBO report could simply state a generic Wide Area Air defence radar was included.

2. Options: It is the PBO's understanding that the Navy has proposed four different options for the CSC. The PBO requests the high-level description of these four options in a similar manner as the attached Arleigh Burke example.

3. Annexes: The annexes (A through D) of the BMT Fleet Costing Report that was obtained as part of the previous information request.

4. Lightship Weight: Was there a lightship weight specified and redacted from the ATKearney report that was provided in the previous information request? If yes, the PBO specifically requests that weight.

We would appreciate that you provide access to this information by 25 May 2016. If we do not hear back from you by that date, we may consider your non-response a deemed refusal and, accordingly, report it to our named committees as instructed.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 25 May 2016, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. The details contained in the reply form will assist us in preparing the PBO annual report.

Your response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". Could you please attach the requested information separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Rod Story can be contacted directly at <mailto:Rod.Story@parl.gc.ca>, 613-291-5423.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons 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,



Jean-Denis Fréchette  
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Mr. Douglas Nevison, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,  
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Mr. Claude Rochette, Assistant Deputy Minister Finance  
National Defence – Chief Financial Officer

Attachment: Reply form for IR0221