



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

July 14, 2020

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, President
Treasury Board
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R5

president@tbs-sct.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0504

Dear President Duclos:

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:

- Monthly data on the number of hours, employee counts and actual expenditure (using the actual salaries of the employees taking leave – if available) associated with pay entitlement code 699, “Other Paid Leave”, or any other pay entitlement category that is used to account for COVID-19-related leave reasons. This should be broken down by government department and agency and cover the three-month period beginning in March 2020 and ending in May 2020. If departments or agencies use more detailed codes to further breakdown 699 leave by reason for the leave (for example 6990 to 6994), please provide the data using this further breakdown (provided the counts are high enough to avoid disclosure of private information);
- Monthly updates of the data above for each additional month during which code 699 has been in use in at least one of the departments or agencies, starting with the month of June as soon as available.

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 28, 2020**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you or the Secretary as soon as possible.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Govindadeva Bernier can be contacted directly at Govindadeva.Bernier@parl.gc.ca, 613-769-4988.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by July 28, 2020, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested

information, you or the Secretary 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,


For/ Yves Giroux

Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Peter Wallace, Secretary of the Treasury Board

Attachment: Reply form for IR0504