



June 18, 2012

Mr. Wayne G. Wouters  
Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet  
Privy Council Office  
Langevin Block, Room 332B  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

Dear Mr. Wouters:

Wayne

This letter follows up on my letter sent to you on May 30, 2012. In that letter, I laid out the reasons why disclosure of information pertaining to the savings measures undertaken within government departments relating to Budget 2012 was required. As I outlined, the information was requested pursuant to my office's power of direct request found in s. 79.3(1) of the *Parliament of Canada Act* RSC 1985, c P-1 ("the Act").

As foreshadowed in my letter, I sought legal advice on the issue. Attached is an opinion outlining the reasons why the information that was requested falls within the power of direct request; the information is financial or economic data, in the possession of department heads, necessary for discharging the PBO's mandate, and not subject to any of the statutory exemptions listed. As such, the information should have been provided as requested, and both your department and the other departments that have not complied are in violation of their legal obligations under the Act.

It is in the interests of Parliament and the Canadian public that such information be made available immediately. As I have mentioned before, it is only with such information that Parliament can exercise its constitutional role of controlling public finances.

Yours truly,

Kevin Page

Kevin Page  
Parliamentary Budget Officer

Attach.