

August 16, 2017

Dr. Bob Bell
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto ON M7A1R3

Ms. Helen Angus
Deputy Minister, Treasury Board Secretariat
Whitney Block, 5th Floor
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A1A1

Mr. Scott Thompson
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, ON M7A1Y7

RE: FAO Information Request FA1712-01: Ontario Health Sector Medium-Term Outlook Follow-up

Dear Deputy Ministers:

My mandate as Financial Accountability Officer is to provide the Legislative Assembly of Ontario with the economic and financial analysis it needs to perform its constitutional functions.

I am currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to section 10 [1] (a) of the *Financial Accountability Officer Act* (the Act), which mandates the Officer, “on his or her own initiative, to prepare an independent analysis to the Assembly about the state of the Province’s finances, including the budget...”

More specifically, this analysis focuses on health sector expense trends and the medium-term health sector expense outlook included in the 2017 Ontario Budget.

I request that your ministry provide me with the following information, which I consider necessary to perform my duties under the Act, as required by subsection 12(1) of the Act:

- Please complete the enclosed Excel spreadsheet “Cover spreadsheet” in Attachment 1. Please provide the information specified in the enclosed Word document “Information request” in Attachment 4.
- If you believe that some or all of the requested information falls under the Cabinet records exception under subsection 12(2) of the FAO Act and that Cabinet has not consented to provide that information to the FAO in the Cabinet records order-in-council (OC 1412/2016, Attachment 2), please describe the information in the Cover spreadsheet (Attachment 1) and explain why you believe the exception prevents you from providing me with the information.
- If you believe that some or all of the information that you are providing in response to this request is subject to the disclosure restrictions under the Cabinet records order-in-council (OC 1412/2016, Attachment 2), please clearly identify the information in question.
- If you believe that some or all of the requested information is personal information and/or personal health information exceptions under subsection 12(3) of the FAO Act, please describe the information in the Cover spreadsheet (Attachment 1), and explain why you believe that exception applies and why you have been unable to redact the information in accordance with subsection 12(4) of the FAO Act.
- If you believe that some or all of the information that you are providing in response to this request is subject to the disclosure restrictions in paragraphs 2, 3 and/or 4 of section 13 of the FAO Act, please clearly identify the information in question and in the Cover spreadsheet (Attachment 1), identify which condition applies, citing the specific provision of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

If the restriction is intended to protect the interests of other public institutions, governments, third parties and/or legal privilege holders, please specifically identify any institutions, governments, third parties and/or legal privilege holders whose interests would be affected by the disclosure of the information.

I would appreciate if you could provide me access to this information on or before **September 8, 2017**.

I have enclosed the *Guide to Responding to Information Requests from the FAO*, including the Cabinet records order-in-council, (Attachment 2) to assist you with responding to this information request.

If you fail to comply with this information request, whether by failing to respond in a timely manner or by refusing to provide information without explaining which exception applies or by citing disclosure restrictions without explaining which restriction applies, I will inform the minister responsible for your ministry.

If the minister is unable to resolve the matter, I may exercise my power under subsection 12(5) of the FAO Act to notify the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs of your ministry to do so.

Please note that the cover letter accompanying your response to this request will be posted on the FAO website, but any attachments will not.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, I would ask that you contact Matt Gurnham, who can be reached directly at mgurnham@fao-on.org or by phone at 416-433-5670.

In pursuing this work, I ask to be directed to an appropriate contact who will be able to provide the data and information necessary to our analysis, as per section 12[1] of the Act.

I would like to thank you for your assistance in this matter. My primary objective is to provide timely and relevant economic and financial analysis to the Legislative Assembly. My ability to do so depends on your providing me free and timely access to the information held by your ministry that is necessary for me to perform my duties. By providing me with this information, you are assisting me in better serving the needs of all MPPs.

Sincerely,



Stephen LeClair
Financial Accountability Officer

Enclosures: 4

Attachment 1: FA1712-01 Cover Spreadsheet

Attachment 2: Guide to Responding to FAO Requests

Attachment 3: FA1712 Backgrounder

Attachment 4: FA1712-01 Information Request

CC:

Mr. Tim Schuurman

Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Budget

Frost Building South, 4th Floor

7 Queen's Park Crescent East

Toronto ON M7A1Y7

Mr. Jeffrey Novak

Chief Financial Analyst and Project Director

Financial Accountability Office of Ontario