

## Inquiry into the Parliamentary Budget Officer

Mr Stuart Grimley

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### YOUR SUBMISSION

#### Submission:

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) have been a great for equality of minor parties and formulating policies. Contrastingly, the info the PBO provides minor parties can also assist in abandoning policies (ie if they dont satisfy a cost to benefit ratio). They also formulate information on postcodes and areas which has been helpful within my office.

The PBO have been great with gaining access to information that we are otherwise unable to access ie statistics and costs via VicPol. Unfortunately some Government bodies have given poor reasons for refusing access to some information to the PBO, or having huge delays to access this important information.

The PBO assist with Budget costings so minor parties can put together realistic proposals for re-election. This puts them on a more level playing field with the major parties, who whilst they still use the PBO, have access to party machines to put together proposals and costings.

The conduct of the PBO has been exemplary – they are always happy to assist with any request, they proactively monitor the media and our proposals and are extremely approachable.

The PBO visibly need additional funding/staffing to assist with tighter turnarounds. During meetings with the PBO they have mentioned the redundancy of a staff member (whose work was fantastic and losing this staff member was at the detriment of the public service) due to funding issues. This is frankly disgraceful. If the PBO can't provide the services they need to provide, it undermines the whole process. I am firmly behind funding increases for the PBO.

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**Signature:**  
Stuart Grimley MP