

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2016-17**

Finance Portfolio  
28 February 2017

**Department/Agency:** Finance  
**Outcome/Program:** General  
**Topic:** Legal costs

**Senator:** Bilyk  
**Question reference number:** F90  
**Type of question:** Written  
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Thursday, 13 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

1. What was the Department's total spend on external legal services (including services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor) (GST inclusive) for calendar year 2016?
2. Can an itemised list of costs of each legal matter (GST inclusive) please be provided?
3. Can a list of relevant Contract Notices published on Austender please be provided?

**Answer:**

1-2. Finance's external legal expenditure for the financial year ended 30 June 2016 is available at <http://www.finance.gov.au/external-legal-expenditure/>.

It would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources to compile data on Finance's external legal expenditure ahead of the mandated annual reporting to the Office of Legal Services Coordination, and in a form other than that required by the Legal Services Directions 2005.

3. A list of published Finance contract notices for external legal services can be obtained by search at the AusTender website at <http://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.advancedsearch.home>