

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

Question: AET 368-371

Topic: Legal Costs

Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

368. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date (22 February 2013) within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

369. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date (22 February 2013) from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

370. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date (22 February 2013) from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

371. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date (22 February 2013) from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

368. Total legal services	\$9,738,000
369. Legal services from AGS	\$1,377,000
370. Legal services from private firms (includes counsel fees)	\$8,196,000
371. From sources other than above (document services, general legal etc.)	\$ 165,000

In relation to questions 368 through 371, ASIC has a significant level of expenditure on legal fees and they are predominantly incurred in taking action to enforce the law. The effort required to provide a listing of each service and cost would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to compile the data.