

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Legal costs

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bilyk

QUESTION No.: AI-107

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. The Department publishes its annual legal expenditure on its website. Information for 2015-16 can be viewed by following this link:
<http://www.industry.gov.au/AboutUs/LegalandLegislativeReporting/Pages/DepartmentalExpenditureOnLegalServices.aspx>

Information for 2016-17 will be published by 30 October 2017.

The Department also reports detailed information on legal services purchasing to the Office of Legal Services Coordination in accordance with the requirements of the Legal Services Directions 2005. This information is provided by the end of August each year. The Attorney-General's Department publishes an annual report which provides consolidated information on agency legal services expenditure. The report is available at the following website:
<http://www.ag.gov.au/Publications/Pages/CommonwealthLegalServicesExpenditure.aspx>.

2. The department is unable to provide an itemised list of costs for legal matters as we do not report on these individually. In order to provide this an officer would need to manually extract and interrogate data from the department's finance system. Due to the time this would take the department considers this to be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
3. Details of relevant Contract Notices published on AusTender are available at www.tenders.gov.au. To provide a specific list of contract notices published on AusTender would be resource intensive and would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

N.B. This answer has been updated. Due to an administrative error, the previous answer that was tabled was not the correct version.