

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 533-536**

**Topic: Legal Costs**

**Written: 17 June 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

533. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
534. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
535. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
536. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

*\*Financial year to date – 31 May 2013*

**Answer:**

533.	Total Legal Services	\$13.547m
534.	Legal Services from AGS	\$1.942m
535.	Legal Services from private firms (including counsel fees)	\$11.301m
536.	From other sources other than the above	\$0.304m

In relation to questions 533 through 536, 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.