

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2014**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Legal Costs**

Question: **217**

Written: **Senator Ludwig**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014**

1. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014
  - a. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external
  - b. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
  - c. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

**Answer**

1.
  - a. Statistics are not kept on a matter by matter basis for DPS' in-house legal team. For the period 11 January 2014 to 31 May 2014, DPS Legal Services employed:
    - 1 FTE PSL2 lawyer;
    - 0.8 FTE PSL2 lawyer.

with a total cost (salary plus ordinary on-costs) of \$110,905.00.

External legal services:

<b>Firm</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Lawyers</b>
Ashurst	31,275.41	65 hr 30 min	Special Counsel Consultant Senior Associate Lawyer
Ashurst	3890.95	9 hr 24 min	Partner Senior Associate Lawyer
AGS	3353.90	15 hr 24 min (including unbilled time)	National Practice Leader Senior Lawyer Graduate lawyer
AGS	458.70	2 hr 6 min (including unbilled time)	Senior Executive Lawyer Senior Lawyer Lawyer
AGS	1791.79	4 hr 18 min	Senior General Counsel Chief General Counsel
Maddocks	6399.80	13 hr 55 min	Partner Senior Associate
Ashurst	1189.58	3 hr 36 min	Partner Senior Associate Graduate
AGS	1892	4 hr	Senior Executive Lawyer
AGS	5665.22	12 hr 48 min	Senior Executive Lawyer

<b>Firm</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Lawyers</b>
			Senior Lawyer
AGS	5731.95	10 hr 30 min	Senior Executive Lawyer Senior Lawyer
Ashurst	4115.91	14 hr 12 min	Partner Senior Associate Lawyer

Note 1 – please see response provided to this question by Department of Senate for additional information regarding Parliamentary Service legal work coordinated by that department.

- b. DPS has not engaged counsel in the period requested.
- c. External legal services are procured through the Legal Services Multi-Use List, managed by the Attorney-General's Department, in accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2005* and LSMUL Guidance Material issued by Attorney-General's Department. DPS Legal Services identifies matters that require external legal advice, in consultation with the internal business area.