

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs**

**Question No: SQ17-000211**

**Topic: Legal Costs**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Catryna Bilyk asked:**

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. Under the *Legal Services Direction 2005*, The Department is required to publish the details of all legal services expenditure for the previous financial year, including external legal services, by 30 October each year. The details for financial year ending 2016 are available on the department's website.  
<https://www.dss.gov.au/publications-articles/corporate-publications/2015-16-legal-services-expenditure-report-for-department-of-social-services-and-portfolio-bodies>
2. No. The Department does not maintain an itemised record of costs for each legal matter.
3. No. The Department publishes Contract Notices for legal services in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. Contract Notices are available on the Austender website for all contracts with a value of \$10,000 or more including GST.  
<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.CN.search>