

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014
Communications Portfolio
Australia Post

Question No: 198

Program No. Australia Post

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator Ludwig asked:

List all legal costs incurred by the Department or Agency since 7 September 2013

1. 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
2. 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)
3. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer:

- 1-2. Australia Post's legal costs (includes internal and external) for the period 7 September 2013 to 31 January 2014 were approximately \$5.3m. Details about individual services and costs are commercial-in-confidence.
3. Generally, Australia Post obtains legal advice from its internal lawyers or, where the matter requires specialist advice outside the expertise of its internal lawyers, from one of the firms on its panel of external lawyers.