

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates February 2017

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 158

NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: Written, 10/03/2017

Topic: Legal costs

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

1. What was NBN Co'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?

Answer:

1. As is standard practice, nbn generally reports on expenses on a financial year basis. For the financial year to 30 June 2016, the total fees paid to external law firms for all legal and regulatory support services by nbn was \$26.9 million. This figure represents the volume and complexity of issues involving nbn and the complex regulatory environment in which the company operates.
2. nbn has a competitive panel arrangement in place, which was fully re-tendered in early 2017. To provide the itemised list of costs on each legal matter is likely to be in breach of our confidentiality obligations with each firm.