

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 213
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Program: Legal
Topic: Legal costs - Total Spend
Hansard Page: -
Question Date: 14 March 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Bilyk asked:

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?

Answer:

The Department is required each year to report on legal services expenditure under the *Legal Services Directions 2005*. This information must be provided to the Office of Legal Services Coordination in the Attorney-General's Department within 60 days of the end of financial year. The information is also published on the Department's website.

External legal expenditure data will be compiled following the end of the financial year. Compiling figures for the Department's external legal spend at this time, outside of the regular reporting cycle, would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Figures for the 2015-16 financial year can be found at:

www.ag.gov.au/Publications/Pages/CommonwealthLegalServicesExpenditure.aspx