

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 1

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 30 (28/5/2014)

Topic: Legal Budget

Senator Ruston asked:

Senator RUSTON: In terms of the legal representation that the ABC would obviously have to have on its own behalf in relation to this matter, is that something that you deal with internally?

Mr Scott: In the main, Senator. We sometimes get some external advice around matters as well.

Senator RUSTON: Have you sought external advice?

Mr Scott: Yes, we have on this matter.

Senator RUSTON: Has that been paid for within the ABC budget?

Mr Scott: Yes. It would be in the ABC legal budget.

Senator RUSTON: Do you have an idea what both the internal and the external legal costs would be?

Mr Scott: I do not have that on me. I can take some of that on notice. The matter of costs and the resolution of the case is all a matter that is still working its way through. There has been some reporting on that. I do not think this has been particularly precise. There have been ongoing discussions around this case since I made my statement. Mr Kenny said at the time he was keen to quickly resolve it. We are keen to resolve it as well. There have been ongoing negotiations from that point.

Answer:

To 28 May 2014, the ABC spent approximately \$10,800 on internal legal costs and \$48,883 on external legal costs related to the Chris Kenny defamation case.