

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 528**

**Program No. 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 65-66 (29/5/2014)**

**Topic: Independent Audit of the NBN Policy Process**

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** So the minister appointed Bill Scales to undertake the independent audit of the NBN policy process. What is the payment that Mr Scales is receiving for that?

**Mr Clarke:** I will clarify my previous answer. I have been advised that we do use Pitney Bowes services and data for applications in addition to My Broadband, but I think it is probably the current largest one. But it is not exclusively applied to that website. Your question was with regard to Mr Scales?

**Senator URQUHART:** Yes. For the independent audit of the NBN policy process. What is he being paid for that?

**Mr Robinson:** He is being paid \$1,500 per day.

**Senator URQUHART:** Per day?

**Mr Robinson:** Yes.

**Senator CONROY:** How many days has he worked so far?

**Mr Robinson:** I would have to take that on notice.

**Senator URQUHART:** Did we get an answer? I was going to ask that very next question.

**Senator CONROY:** He has taken it on notice.

...

**Senator CONROY:** Could we get a table including other expenses?

**Senator URQUHART:** Yes. That is what I would like as well, thanks.

**Mr Robinson:** Yes.

**Answer:**

For the period 1 February to 6 August 2014, the following costs were paid in regard to the Independent Auditor and Secretariat (please note, whilst the daily rate of \$1,500 is inclusive of GST, the following costs are all GST exclusive):

Mr Scales worked 41.75 days at a total cost of \$56,932 (\$1,363.64 per day) and incurred \$12,794 of travel related expenses.

The Secretariat comprised four staff, 1x SES Band 3 (equivalent) and 3 APS level staff at an EL2, EL1 and APS 4 level. Remuneration for the Secretariat was \$225,323 and expenses incurred were \$13,747.

An additional cost of the Audit was a fee for service contract at a cost of \$32,545 for research.

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	<b>Remuneration (GST Exc)</b>	<b>Expenses (GST Exc)</b>
<b>Mr Bill Scales</b>	\$56,932	\$12,794
<b>Secretariat</b>	\$225,323	\$13,747
	<b>Fee for Service (GST Exc)</b>	
<b>Research (Mr Stephen Hunter)</b>	\$32,545	Nil