

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: Australian Office of Financial Management

Question: BET 1482

Topic: Legal Costs

Reference: Written - 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

1482 List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014

a) 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

b) 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)

c) How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice public submissions available on a website?

Answer:

1482 For the period 26 February 2014 to 12 June 2014, the AOFM spent \$46,132 on external legal services.

(a) For the period 26 February 2014 to 12 June 2014, the AOFM spent \$3,648 on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for advice on the sun setting of regulations for debt management. For the same period the AOFM spent \$42,484 on advice from a private law firm for contractual advice.

(b) Nil

(c) Legal advice from the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) in regard to the sun setting of regulations relating to debt management was via limited tender. The legal advice for contractual advice was via the Legal Services Multi User Listing. The legal costs for all legal advice obtained by the AOFM was done on a time and materials basis at an agreed rate and billed accordingly.