

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2014**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Legal costs**

Question: **228**

Written **Senator Ludwig**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014**

1. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013
  - 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

**Answer**

1.
  - a. Statistics are not kept on a matter by matter basis for DPS' in-house legal team. For the period 7 September 2013 to 11 January 2014 (available data), DPS Legal Services employed:
    - 1 FTE PSL2 lawyer (7 September 2013 to 11 January 2014);
    - 1 FTE PSL1 lawyer (7 September 2013 to 11 January 2014);
    - 0.8 FTE PSL2 lawyer (4 November 2013 to 11 January 2014);

with a total cost (salary plus ordinary on-costs) of \$134,948.00.

External legal services:

<b>Firm</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Lawyers</b>
AGS	\$14,300	35:15	Deputy General Counsel Senior Lawyer Lawyer
AGS	\$15,833.43	29:18	Chief General Counsel Senior Executive Lawyer Senior General Counsel
Ashurst	\$6085.28	24:00	Partner Senior Associate Lawyer
Office of Parliamentary Counsel*	\$3799.69	N/A	N/A

Note 1 – Office of Parliamentary Counsel drafting work is undertaken on behalf of the Parliamentary Service as a whole. Costs for this work are recovered from Department of Senate, Department of the House of Representatives, and Parliamentary Budget Office (split proportionally based on departmental appropriations).

Note 2 – please see response provided to this question by Department of Senate for additional information regarding Parliamentary Service legal work coordinated by that department.

- b. DPS has not engaged counsel in the period requested.
- c. External legal services are procured through the Legal Services Multi-Use List, managed by the Attorney-General's Department, in accordance with the Legal Services Directions 2005 and LSMUL Guidance Material issued by Attorney-General's Department. DPS Legal Services identifies matters that require external legal advice, in consultation with the internal business area.