

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Legal costs

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 312

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

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

**Answer:**

To attempt to provide this level of detail on all legal costs incurred since Additional Estimates in February 2014 would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

In accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2005* issued by the Attorney-General, the Department publishes on its website the total internal and external legal services expenditure, including the total expenditure on counsel. The Department will publish its legal service expenditure for 2013-14 by 30 October 2014. External legal advice is procured from providers on the Legal Services Multi Use List, in accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2005*.