

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 26 May- 5 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security

**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1

**Topic:** Legal costs

**Senator:** 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:**

1. 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:**

1. Legal costs incurred by OIGIS between 28 February 2014 and 31 May 2014 is as follows:

- a) OIGIS has one part-time SES Band 1 officer with legal qualifications. OIGIS estimates that approximately 35% of this officer's time involves providing legal services to the office. Between 28 February and 31 May 2014 this equates to approximately \$17,271 in salary related costs. In addition to internal legal costs OIGIS obtained advice from AGS (\$6,933.50) and from Senior Counsel (\$6,147.27 –see answer (b)).
- b) OIGIS spent \$6,147.27 (GST exclusive) briefing Counsel as follows:

Level	Cost	Hours	Direct/Indirect briefing	Gender of Counsel
Senior Counsel	\$6,147.27	14	Direct	Female

- c) Advice was directly sourced. Most advice sought by OIGIS is national security classified and is 'tied' work in accordance with the Legal Services Directions.