

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 297

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 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

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) Please refer to the table on the next page for details for legal advice for the period 1 September 2013 to 28 February 2014. The AFP does not track legal advice (both internal and external) based on hours. It would be an unreasonable diversion of AFP resources to go back and identify the hours spent on AFP legal advice.
- b) Please refer to the table on the next page for the period 1 September 2013 to 28 February 2014. All barristers charge their time in line with the government hourly rate as set by Office of Legal Services Coordination (OLSC). All the Counsels are engaged on AFP and not Ministerial activity.
- c) The AFP engages external legal advice through either use of the Commonwealth's Legal Services Multi-Use List or directly by the AFP.

Legal Services Expenditure Report	
Australian Federal Police	
<i>All figures should be inclusive of GST</i>	
Totals	
Total Costs Recovered¹	-\$258,248.24
<i>1 Do not subtract this figure from the legal services expenditure total</i>	
Total External Legal Services Expenditure	\$1,094,643.55
Total Internal Legal Services Expenditure	\$6,557,183.81
Total (External + Internal) Expenditure	\$7,651,827.36
Summary of External Legal Services Expenditure	
Total value of briefs to Counsel (A)	\$418,405.69
Total value of disbursements (excluding counsel) (B)	\$184,721.79
Total value of professional fees paid (C)	\$491,516.07
Total External Legal Services Expenditure (A + B + C)	\$1,094,643.55
Counsel	
Direct or Indirect brief	
<i>Direct Briefs</i>	28
<i>Indirect Briefs</i>	9
Gender ratio of Counsel	
<i>Briefs to Male Counsel</i>	29
<i>Briefs to Female Counsel</i>	8
Briefs by Level of Counsel	
<i>Queen's Counsel</i>	7
<i>Senior Counsel</i>	7
<i>Counsel</i>	12
<i>Junior Counsel</i>	11
<u>Total value of briefs to Counsel (A)³</u>	\$418,405.69
Disbursements	
Total value of disbursements (excluding counsel) (B)	\$184,721.79
Professional Fees	
Australian Government Solicitors	\$357,548.65
Clayton Utz	\$79,084.41
HWL Ebsworth	\$51,627.00
Attorney-General's Department	\$1,166.00
Marcus Jeremy Hassall	\$2,090.00
Total value of professional fees paid (C)	\$491,516.07