

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/124) - Legal Costs - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Ludwig, Joe (L&CA) written:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency
2. 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
3. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spent briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
4. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer:

From 1 September 2015 to 29 February 2016 the portfolio spent \$31.854 million (excluding GST) on all legal costs, advice and litigation.

The total cost of external legal services was \$17.665 million which includes counsel fees totalling \$2.314 million. External legal services were sourced through the Australian Government Solicitor, the Attorney-General's Department, Clayton Utz, DLA Piper, Mills Oakley, Minter Ellison, Sparke Helmore, or otherwise through the Legal Services Multi-Use List. Four Counsel advices were provided on a direct basis, all direct briefs were to male counsel. All other Counsel were indirectly briefed through legal service providers. The gender ratio information and hours taken to indirectly brief and advise are not recorded across the portfolio's systems and to provide this level of detail would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

The total internal legal expenses were \$14.188 million (excluding GST).