

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/112) - Legal costs - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA) written:

What was the Department's total spend on external legal services (including services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor) (GST inclusive) for calendar year 2016?

Can an itemised list of costs of each legal matter (GST inclusive) please be provided?

Can a list of relevant Contract Notices published on Austender please be provided?

Answer:

The Department's total spend on external legal services for calendar year 2016 was \$42,975,569 (GST exclusive). The department's financial information system reports expenditure on a GST exclusive basis.

An itemised list of costs of each legal matter cannot be provided. To provide this level of detail would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Contract notices for legal services published by any non-corporate Commonwealth entity on Austender do not accurately reflect legal services expenditure for the following reasons:

- Reported amounts are by necessity usually an estimate of the legal services expenditure at the outset of a matter, and so can be greater or smaller than the actual expenditure on a matter.
- Expenditure under \$10,000 is not required to be reported.

A list of relevant Contract Notices as published on Austender active for calendar year 2016 is available at www.tenders.gov.au.