

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group: Written

Program: Whole-of-Portfolio

Question: BE14/161

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

1. What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

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

1. The Attorney-General's Department and applicable portfolio agencies arrange a large number of meetings on an as needs basis. Providing details for all meetings would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.
2. The Department expended approximately \$123 (excluding GST) on incidental costs to support meetings for the Office of the Attorney-General (approximately \$113) and the Office of the Minister for Justice (approximately \$10). The Department does not have information relating to the date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
- 3-4. As spending on meetings is on an as-needs basis and not a significant budget item, there is no formally planned meeting spend for the department or portfolio ministers.