

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

**Topic:** Legal Costs

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 103

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 30 March 2012

**Number of pages:** 2.

**Question:**

1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

**Answer:**

The Government does not generally disclose the content of legal advice received by the Government or its agencies. It is important for any government to be able to make fully informed decisions based on comprehensive and confidential legal advice. As such, only total figures for legal service expenditure will be provided, rather than a list of each service and costs.

1. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the Department's expenditure for legal services for the period from 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 was \$347,557.

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2. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the Department's expenditure for legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the period from 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 was \$248,964.
3. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the Department's expenditure for legal services from private firms for the period from 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 was \$98,593.
4. Based on the Department's internal financial management system, the Department's expenditure for legal services from other sources for the period from 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 was nil.