

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 70

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

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.

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.

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.

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 legal advice received by the Government or its agencies. As such, only total figures for legal service expenditure (including disbursements) will be provided rather than a list of each service and costs. All figures are inclusive of GST.

The total paid by the Department for the 2012-13 financial year to date (as at 28 February 2013) for:

1. legal services – \$281,125
2. legal services through the Australian Government Solicitor – \$237,718
3. legal services through private firms – \$33,377
4. legal services through other sources – \$10,031