

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Termination of employment of Ms Wolfe

Senator: Ronaldson

Question reference number: 96

Type of question: Hansard F&PA, p 28, 24 May

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question: Do you know what the cost of this aborted action was? ... My apologies, I meant the PSC's portion of the costs, and I presume that they were split up between the various respondents, were they—the DMO and yourselves?

Answer:

At an early stage in the proceedings the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) and the Australian Public Service Commission (the Commission) agreed that DMO would have the lead role in carriage of the proceedings, given that the proceedings involved a challenge to the DMO decision to terminate Ms Wolfe's employment with DMO and given that DMO would be responsible for most of the work required to meet Ms Wolfe's grounds of challenge. DMO agreed that it would generally meet the legal costs of the defence of the proceedings except where the APSC sought legal services not otherwise required by DMO.

The Commission is aware that DMO has separately advised the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade of DMO's legal costs of the defence of the proceedings.

The Commission separately sought a limited amount of advice which was not otherwise required by DMO. The total cost of this advice was \$4,499.55.