

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee****ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013****Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio****Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet**Topic:** Legal Costs**Senator:** Senator Ryan**Question reference number:** 97**Type of Question:** Written**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 July 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 31 May 2013) for:

1. legal services - \$567,462
2. legal services through the Australian Government Solicitor - \$349,486
3. legal services through private firms - \$207,945
4. legal services through other sources - \$10,031