

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates - May 2013

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Program 1: Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

Outcome 1: The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: QoN 97

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013

Number of Pages: 1

What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date? 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 total legal costs for the FYTD (as at 31 May 2013) amounted to \$106,412.12. The categories of service are broken down as follows:

- FOI and Privacy advice \$88,510.84
- General \$17,901.28

All advice was provided by the Australian Government Solicitor.

The amount spent by the Office on legal services from private firms this FYTD (as at 31 May 2013) is \$269.28. These services were provided by Merrill Corporation.

Nil