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Auditor-General for Australia



4 December 2020

Senator James Paterson
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Finance and Public Administration
Australian Parliament House
By email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Paterson

I am writing to provide a correction to a response the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) provided to a written Question on Notice (QoN) in relation to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee's 2019-20 Supplementary Budget Estimates inquiry in March 2020.

In response to QoN 327 on Legal Costs, for the 2019-20 YTD period (1 July 2019 to 18 March 2020) the ANAO provided the figure of \$146,591.84 for 'external legal costs' and 'total legal costs' of \$405,817.84.

In preparing the ANAO's Legal Services Expenditure Report 2019-20, which the ANAO is required to make publically available in accordance with the Legal Services Directions 2017 and is available at <https://www.anao.gov.au/about/accountability-and-reporting>, it was discovered that the amount of \$11,038.26 had been incorrectly attributed as an external legal cost.

For the period 1 July to 18 March 2020, the correct figure for the ANAO's external legal costs is \$135,553.58 and total legal costs is \$394,779.58.

A copy of the corrected response is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Grant Hehir

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Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian National Audit Office

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Legal costs

Senator: Senator Kitching

Question reference number: 0327

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 May 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for FY 2019-20 to date?

Answer:

The ANAO's total estimated Legal Services Expenditure for the 2019-20 financial year to date is set out in the table below.

Period	Internal legal costs	External legal costs	Total legal costs
1 July 2019 to 18 March 2020	\$259,226.00	\$135,553.58	\$394,779.58