



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**National Security**  
**and Criminal Justice Group**

3 March 2023

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

**Clarification to Hansard – Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 14 February 2023**

I am writing to correct evidence I provided to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 14 February 2023.

On p 83 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Shoebridge regarding the total costs incurred by the Commonwealth in the prosecution of Mr Bernard Collaery, I said:

**Ms Chidgey:** Again, as at 30 January, for Collaery and Witness K the total external legal costs were \$5,510,829.

On 1 March 2023, I was advised that the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) had identified additional costs that they had not previously included in the external legal costs incurred by the Commonwealth in the Collaery and Witness K prosecutions.

Based on the further information from AGS, I wish to advise the Committee that as at 30 January 2023, the total external legal costs for Collaery and Witness K prosecutions were \$5,638,564.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Chidgey