



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

23 November 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 24 October 2023**

I am writing to clarify evidence I provided to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 24 October 2023.

On page 81 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Shoebridge regarding the total costs incurred by the Commonwealth in the prosecution of Mr David McBride, I said:

**Ms Chidgey:** We don't have the Boyle costs. We're involved from a national security information perspective in matters, but that is not a matter in which we're involved. The McBride case—as of 30 September 2023, the external legal costs are \$2,092,430, exclusive of GST.

On 22 November 2023, officers in the Attorney-General's Department identified that the figure provided was incorrect as the department's external legal costs had mistakenly been counted twice. The correct figure for the total Commonwealth external legal costs for the *McBride* proceedings, as at 30 September 2023, was \$2,066,692 excluding GST.

Yours sincerely

**Sarah Chidgey PSM**  
Deputy Secretary  
National Security and Criminal Justice Group