

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 334 and 359

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media monitoring, Minister's Office and Department

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - a. Which Agency or Agencies provided these services?
 - b. What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - c. Itemise these expenses.

2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department/Agency from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - a. Which Agency or Agencies provided these services?
 - b. What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - c. Itemise these expenses.

Answer:

- 1-2. The Department has one media monitoring contract for these services, which includes the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary's offices, and these costs cannot be split. The Department's financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources to rectify.
 - a. See the answer to Questions on Notice 11 and 12 from the November 2013 Supplementary Budget Estimates.
 - b. The total expense for media monitoring services provided to the Department from 1 September 2013 – 31 January 2014 is \$144,726.63 (GST excl).
 - c. The financial management system does not track expenses to this level.