

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 206(d)

Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency
2. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external
3. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spent briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
4. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer

- 1-3. Australia Post's legal costs (includes internal and external) for the period 1 October 2015 to 29 January 2016 were approximately \$3.9million. The specific details sought about the breakdown of legal costs across the entire Corporation are not captured on any central database. As such, Australia Post is not in a position to provide the information as requested.
4. Generally, Australia Post obtains legal advice from its internal lawyers, or, where the matter requires specialist advice outside the expertise of its internal lawyers, from one of the firms on its panel of external lawyers.