

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016
Communications Portfolio
Screen Australia

Question No: 206(l)

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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:

1-4. Under the Legal Services Directions 2005, each Commonwealth department and agency is required to provide a report on its legal expenditure for the previous financial year within 60 days of the end of that financial year. This information must be published by 30 October each year. As this information will be publicly available, to attempt to provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.