

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 360

Topic: Legal Costs

Written: 5/03/2014

Senator Ludwig asked:

360. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013
- a. 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
 - b. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
 - c. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer

360. To provide these answers would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- For example, in regard to internal legal costs it would be extremely onerous if not impossible, to allocate these internal legal costs amongst all the different pieces of legal advices that they would have participated in.