

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Taxation Office

Question No: AET 53

Topic: Legal costs

Reference: Written

Senator: Bilyk

Question:

1. What was the ATO's total spend on external legal services (including services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor) (GST inclusive) for calendar year 2016?
2. Can an itemised list of costs of each legal matter (GST inclusive) please be provided?
3. Can a list of relevant Contract Notices published on Austender please be provided?

Answer:

1. \$61,822,308 (GST exclusive)*
2. This information cannot be provided due to its sensitive nature.
3. Please refer to tenders.gov.au for detail of Legal Services providers currently engaged by the ATO.

*The ATO reports on the net cost to the ATO, which is the standard accounting treatment for reporting. Whilst the ATO will pay invoices inclusive of GST, the GST is claimed back. Hence the net cost to the ATO is the GST-exclusive amount and therefore is what is reported.