

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Legal Costs

REFERENCE: Written Questions – Senator Ludwig

QUESTION No.: BI-100

1. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Additional Estimates in February 2014.
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 spend 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

The Department publishes its annual legal expenditure on its website. Information for 2012-13 can be viewed by following this link: www.industry.gov.au/AboutUs/LegalandLegislativeReporting/Pages/DepartmentalExpenditureOnLegalServices.aspx. Information for 2013-14 will be published by 30 October 2014.

The Department also reports detailed information on legal services purchasing to the Office of Legal Services Coordination in accordance with the requirements of the Legal Services Directions 2005. This information is provided by the end of August each year. The Attorney-General's Department publishes an annual report which provides consolidated information on agency legal services expenditure. The report is available at the following website: www.ag.gov.au/Publications/Pages/CommonwealthLegalServicesExpenditure.aspx.