

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency: APRA**

**Question: SBT1281-1284**

**Topic: Legal costs**

**Reference: written - 30 October 2014**

**Senator: Ludwig, Joe**

**Question:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014\*:

- 1281. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency
- 1282. 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
- 1283. 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)
- 1284. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice  
*\* 2 June to 30 October 2014.*

**Answer:**

- 1281. The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) spent \$1,911,916 on legal services for the period 2 June to 30 October 2014.
- 1282. The cost for services is broken down as follows:

Source of advice	Level of counsel	Internal or external	Hours retained	Cost \$
APRA in-house solicitors	Ranging from junior solicitors to General Counsel	internal	18,218	1,870,685
External solicitors	Ranging from junior solicitors to Partner	external	22	10,581
Counsel	Junior Counsel	external	99	29,720
Counsel	Senior Counsel	external	3	930
				<b>1,911,916</b>

- 1283. APRA engaged three counsel during the period 2 June to 30 October, two were briefed directly and one indirectly. The gender ratio is one female to two males. As APRA does not record the hours spent briefing counsel, costs cannot be broken down for this question.

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1284. APRA assesses the complexity and nature of the advice sought and the availability of legal expertise best able to meet the need from the mechanisms available under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.