

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: Treasury

Question: SBT 158-161

Topic: Legal Costs

Reference: Written - 30 October 2014

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

158. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency
159. 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
160. 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)
161. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer:

158. The total legal costs incurred by the Treasury in the period June 2014 to 30 October 2014 was \$200,110.
159. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
160. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
161. Treasury procures legal advice in accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2005*. To attempt to detail the procurement process for each individual piece of advice would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.