

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** Termination of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 71

**Type of question:** FPA Tuesday 26 May 2015, page 136

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator LUDWIG: That is very helpful. I did say at the beginning that I did not think it was on. My voice was carrying obviously. I will not re-canvas those issues if questions have been put by others and answered—it just piqued my interest—but I wanted to follow up, if it has not already been answered, whether there was any legal advice sought by Dr Thawley and the cost of that legal advice.

Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice. I am personally unaware.

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet sought legal advice in March 2015 on a range of matters in relation to Dr Grimes' appointment as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, at a total cost of \$8,146.82 (GST included).