

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 213

Topic: Legal costs

Written: 5 March 2014

Senator LUDWIG asked:

213. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013.
- a. 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.
 - b. 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 (department, ministerial)
 - c. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice.

Answer:

213. The total legal costs incurred by the Treasury in the period 7 September 2013 to 5 March 2014 was \$429,274.08.
- a. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
 - b. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
 - c. 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.