

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

TOPIC: Comcare report cost

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 17 October 2012, page 12).

QUESTION No.: SI-4

Senator COLBECK: What was the full cost to the CSIRO of the report into this matter by the Comcare investigator, Mr Docker?

Dr Clark: I am not quite sure. Do you want the cost of the Comcare investigation and report?

Senator COLBECK: Yes.

Mr Roy: My understanding is that we have no direct costs. Whether it flows through our premiums or not I cannot answer. I will have to take that on notice. We do not write a cheque to Comcare, to the best of my knowledge, to conduct this report. Clearly, a number of CSIRO officers have been witnesses and have contributed to the report and we have not costed their time to do that piece of work. I cannot be more definitive than that here today, but we do not write a cheque to Comcare for it, to the best of my knowledge.

ANSWER

Comcare has advised that the cost of their investigations is not directly invoiced to Agencies, but is a factor considered in determining the regulatory contribution component of the annual premium. The contribution is the average cost per investigation multiplied by the average number of investigations for the previous two calendar years. For this report this translates to an amount of \$29,600 payable over two years.