

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-12**

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**Program 1:** Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

**Outcome 1:** The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

**Topic:** Karen Kline's FOI application

**Senator:** RONALDSON

**Question reference number:** PM118

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2011

**Number of Pages:** 1

**Question:**

1. How much money did it cost the office to obtain legal 'advice prior to refusing Karen Kline's FOI application?
2. How much money did it cost the office in legal fees to obtain advice assisting the office in preparing a submission to the FOI commissioner regarding its decision refusing Karen Kline's FOI application?
3. How much money is it costing the office in legal fees to defend the office's decision to refuse Karen Kline's FOI application at the AAT?

**Answer:**

1. The Office spent \$10,094\* on legal advice associated with Ms Kline's FOI request and related issues.
2. Nil. The Office sought no legal advice in relation to the review by the Office of the Information Commissioner.
3. Office legal costs in relation to Ms Kline's application to the AAT totalled \$8,934\* as at Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011. The total cost is still unknown at this time, as the AAT matter is pending.

\* amounts are approximate only as some invoices for legal services covered more than one topic, and a split has been determined.