

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

**Outcome/Program:**

**Topic:** Legal costs

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 147

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

- a) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- b) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- c) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- d) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- e) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- f) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- g) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- h) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

**Answer:**

a)-d) A summary of the OAIC's legal expenditure in 2010-11, including expenditure with the Australian Government Solicitor, private firms and other sources, is available in the OAIC's Legal Services Expenditure Report 2010-11, which can be downloaded from [http://www.oaic.gov.au/about/corporate/legal\\_expenses2010-11.html](http://www.oaic.gov.au/about/corporate/legal_expenses2010-11.html).

e)-h) Under the *Legal Services Directions 2005*, the OAIC is required to make the records of its legal services expenditure for the previous financial year publicly available by 31 October each year. Therefore, the legal services expenditure for the OAIC will not be published until after the end of the 2011-12 financial year. To identify the information sought would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.