

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(47) Output: Internal Product

Senator Ellison (L&CA 112 and written) asked:

Can you provide a monthly breakdown of the litigation costs of the department since December 2007?

Answer:

A monthly breakdown of litigation costs is provided in the following table. These costs represent both internal and external expenditure by Litigation Branch from 1 December 2007 to 31 May 2008.

December 2007	\$1,820,904
January 2008	\$1,410,305
February 2008	\$4,463,351
March 2008	\$1,661,141
April 2008	\$2,473,182
May 2008	\$2,933,420
TOTAL	\$14,762,303

DIAC prepares accruals on a monthly basis to ensure that expenses are captured and reported against the period in which they were incurred. This practice is in accordance with the accounting principles.

In the month of February 2008 expenditure amounts were over accrued and subsequently reversed in March 2008. Therefore the breakdown above shows this, movement by month, noting that the total spend for the year to May 2008 is correct.

The increase in May 2008 reflects additional expenditure resulting from the Full Federal Court sittings. This increase is consistent with other Full Federal Court sitting periods.

December and January are traditionally quieter months due to the number of public holidays and the courts' closure periods.