

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Question No. 41

Senator Wright asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Senator WRIGHT: Finally, please provide the total cost of legal fees incurred by the Australian government in relation to the proceeds of crime case against David Hicks.

Mr Jolliffe: Are you talking about the direct legal costs? There would be a lot of other investigation costs et cetera. I could take that on notice.

Senator WRIGHT: I appreciate that you probably will need to take that on notice; I would like that. But I think the direct and the indirect costs would be of interest to me and to many others.

Mr Jolliffe: The director would be aware of the costs to the office in terms of legal costs. The indirect cost to the wider Australian government might be a separate issue entirely.

Senator WRIGHT: Are you in a position to tell me the direct legal costs that were incurred in that case?

Mr Jolliffe: It might be best for me to take it on notice. I will be much more easily able to ascertain those costs for you than I will be the indirect costs that might be associated with the entire litigation.

Senator WRIGHT: Are you in a position to provide that now? I appreciate that you would need to take the indirect costs on notice, but are you in a position to give any sense of the direct costs at this point?

Mr Jolliffe: I can tell you, on the note that has just been brought to my attention, the CDPP spent approximately \$165,618 on counsel and administration costs.

Senator WRIGHT: I ask you to take notice the other part of the question.

Mr Jolliffe: The wider costs: I think we might need some further assistance from other agencies in relation to those.

Senator WRIGHT: Thank you.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

In addition to the information provided to the honourable senator on 16 October 2012, the CDPP is aware that in addition to the costs incurred by the CDPP another \$8,225 was expended by the Commonwealth in direct legal costs. The CDPP has not been provided with any further information in relation to costs incurred.