



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA on 21 November 2023: the Solicitor-General took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 21 November 2023 [PAGE 9-10]

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: And what legal firms did the ACT Government Solicitor receive external advice from?

Mr Garrisson: From our panel. I cannot recall exactly how many were engaged. As you will recall there is a panel of 24 firms and I would have thought the majority of them would have been engaged at some point during the course of the last year.

THE CHAIR: Any one firm in particular that did most of your work?

Mr Garrisson: I would need to take that on notice.

Solicitor-General: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

External law firms are engaged in accordance with the *Law Officers Legal Services Directions 2023*. The use of external legal service providers is approved by the Solicitor-General but the providers are generally engaged and instructed by Territory agencies. During the 2022-23 year the firm of Maddocks was instructed on the most number of occasions and the firm of Clayton Utz was paid the highest level of fees amongst the firms instructed.

The data does not include those law firms that have been engaged to represent public officials before inquiries and the Integrity Commission as those services do not involve the giving of advice to the Territory.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

By the Solicitor-General, Mr Peter Garrisson AM SC

Date:

6/12/23