

# SENATE QUESTION

**QUESTION NUMBER:** 1599

Rex Patrick asked the following question, upon notice, on 03 June 2020.

What are the total external legal costs (including the Australian Government Solicitor) to date in the prosecution of Witness K and Mr Bernard Collaery (No SCC195 of 2019: The Queen and Bernard Joseph Edward Collaery in the Supreme Court of the ACT) . The costs amount should include all preparatory work – e.g. Bromwich advice and Abraham advice..

**Senator the Hon Marise Payne** – The Hon Christian Porter MP has provided the following answer to the honourable senator’s question:

As at 3 June 2020, external legal costs incurred by the Commonwealth in the prosecutions of Witness K and Mr Bernard Collaery total approximately \$2,063,442.86 excl GST.

This amount represents the external legal costs incurred by Commonwealth entities in the prosecutions of Mr Collaery and of Witness K. The amount includes the services of the Australian Government Solicitor and other external legal services. It includes solicitors’ and Counsel fees and legal disbursement costs. This figure excludes costs associated with responding to subpoenas which Mr Collaery has caused to be issued to various Commonwealth entities in connection with the prosecution.