

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
28 February 2017

Department/Agency: Finance
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Payment of accounts

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: F21

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 44 and 45, 28 February 2017

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Thursday, 13 April 2017

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: In terms of the government's policy on pay on time or pay interest policy, which requires payment no longer than 30 days for contracts after the date of receipt of contracts up to \$1 million, do you report performance against this pay on time policy?

...

Senator Cormann: But the answer is yes, we comply with those requirements. That is the answer to your question.

Senator GALLAGHER: Can you tell me what you achieved in relation to that?

Senator Cormann: That is probably somebody else's.

Mr Fredericks: That is my responsibility, but I do not have that number with me. If I can, I will take that on notice.

Senator GALLAGHER: All right. And if you are taking that on notice, whether or not you have had to pay interest on any that you have failed to. I presume as part of that that you would also give an explanation about why you did not meet that.

Mr Fredericks: Yes. We will give you as much as we can.

Answer:

The Department of Finance submits the annual Government Pay On-Time Survey to the Department of Treasury.

The results submitted to the latest survey for the period, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, are at Attachment A.

Interest paid on late invoices is included in the attached results. Explanations for payments of late invoices were not requested as part of the survey however are primarily due to administrative errors.

Government Pay On-Time Survey for 2015-16

Department of Finance

1. Total invoices paid for contracts under \$1 million (GST incl)

Financial Year	Quantity	Value \$
2015-16	4,286	\$55,757,994

2. Total invoices for contracts under \$1 million (GST incl) paid late (after 30 days)

Financial Year	Quantity	Value \$
2015-16	41	\$598,793.66

3. Total value of the interest paid on late invoices for contracts under \$1 million (GST incl)

Financial Year	Value \$
2015-16	\$4,552.45