

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

**Question: AET 354**

**Topic: Government Payments of Accounts**

**Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

354. For this financial year to date (22 February 2013), has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc. in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)?
- If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc. as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.
  - For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
  - Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

354.

- For the financial year to date (22 February 2013), ASIC has identified 91% of invoices were paid within government policy terms of 30 days. An ageing of payments follows:

1 July 2012- 22 February 2013	Paid within 30 days of receipt	Paid within 31-60 days	Paid over 60 days	Total
% of Invoices	91%	8%	1%	100%

Most delays in paying invoices beyond 30 day terms were due to the receipt of incorrect or incomplete invoices and /or differences between purchase orders and invoices in respect in amounts charged or services provided.

All ASIC suppliers have been asked to send all invoices to a central location for scanning and have been reminded what information is required for a properly rendered invoice. This has been designed to reduce any delays in payment.

- No interest has been paid on overdue amounts for the financial year to 22 February 2013.
- Not applicable.