Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission
Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio
Topic: Government payments of accounts

Senator: Ludwig
Question reference number: 172
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:
a) From 7 September 2013 to date, 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)?
b) 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)
c) 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?
d) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:
   a) It is the Australian Public Service Commission's (APSC) policy to pay accounts within 30 days of invoicing. Since 7 September 2013, the majority of the accounts were paid within the terms of time of payment (i.e. within 30 days).

   b) An extract from the APSC's financial system shows 91 percent of all invoices received up to 30 November 2013 have been paid within 30 days of the supplier issue date. Due to system constraints, the APSC does not record the date invoices have been correctly rendered, which could be a much later date than the supplier issue date. Delay in invoices being correctly rendered is the primary reason for late payments.

   c) There is no interest or late payment fee incurred by the APSC in the current financial year or the previous financial year.

   d) Not applicable.