

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australia Post**

**Question No: 166**

**Program No. Australia Post**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Government Payment of Accounts**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

1. From Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, what has been the average time period for the Department/Agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others?
2. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?
3. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?
4. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?
5. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 90 and 120 days?
6. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
7. 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 since 7 September 2013?
8. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

- 1-8. As a Government Business Enterprise, Australia Post is not subject to the Government's policy requirements for the payment of contractor/consultant accounts.