

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency**

**Question No: 503**

**Program No. TUSMA**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Government payments of accounts**

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

1. From 25 February 2014 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 25 February 2014?
8. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

1. 15 to 20 days
2. 104 & 98 per cent
3. 1 & 1 per cent
4. 0
5. 0
6. 0
7. In line with Finance Circular No 2012/02, interest is payable to small businesses on request from the small business for payments made after 30 days and on, or prior to 60 days, from receipt of the correctly rendered invoice, or via a self-generated payment for penalty interest where payments are made after 60 days from receipt of the correctly rendered invoice. No invoices have been received and no interest has been paid.
8. Not applicable.