

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australia Post**

**Question No: 372**

**Program No: Australia Post**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Government payments of accounts**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. 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? f) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
6. 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 Estimates, 2014?
7. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

- 1 – 5. Australia Post policy states standard payment terms as 30 days after date of invoice. The details sought about the analysis of payments across the entire corporation are not captured on any central database. As such, Australia Post is not in a position to provide the information requested.
- 6 – 7. Australia Post is not aware of any instances where interest has been paid on accounts not paid within 30 days.