

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Special Broadcasting Service**

**Question No: 528**

**Program No. Special Broadcasting Service**

**Hansard Ref: Hansard** In writing

**Topic:** Government payment 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? ) 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? Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer**

SBS has not performed an analysis of this type since the previous answer was provided in June 2014. The results (based on data collected during 24 February to 30 April 2014) are unlikely to vary significantly from the information provided in June 2014 and are repeated below. SBS is currently upgrading its financial management system and its processes and data of the type requested will be more readily available in future.

1. Account payments were made on average 23 days from the invoice date.
2. 4,156            84%
3. 552             11%
4. 117             2%
5. 59              1%; >120 days: 89            2%
6. Accounts are paid within the terms of trade. No interest has been paid.