

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
Supplementary Budget Estimates  
2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency: ABS**

**Question: SBT638**

**Topic: Government payments of accounts**

**Reference: Written - 30 October 2014**

**Senator: Ludwig, Joe**

**Question:**

638. Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

- a) What has been the average time period for the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others?
- b) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?
- c) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?
- d) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?
- e) 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?
- g) 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?
- h) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

638.

- a) The average time period to pay accounts was 5 days.
- b) To f) Refer table below:

Payment of Accounts  
1 July 2014 to 31 October 2014

Days Paid	Transactions	Percentage
< 30 days	9,375	97.7%
30 - < 60 days	150	1.6%
60 - < 90 days	40	0.4%
90 - < 120 days	14	0.1%
120 days plus	21	0.2%
	<b>9,600</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates**

**2014 - 2015**

g) The ABS is paying interest on overdue amounts. For the reporting period, interest paid on overdue amounts totalled \$0 (Nil).

h) Payment is in accordance with the general interest charge rate determined under section 8AAD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* on the day that payment is due. Details of the General Interest Charge rate are available from the Australian Taxation Office.