

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2014**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Government payments of accounts**

Question: **184**

Written **Senator Ludwig**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

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. From Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, the department paid its accounts, on average, in 26 days.
2. From 0 to 30 days: 1,588/86.8 per cent.
3. From 31 to 60 days: 161/8.8 per cent.
4. From 61 to 90 days: 48/2.6 per cent.
5. From 91 to 120 days: 14/0.8 per cent.
6. 121 days or more: 18/1.0 per cent.
7. For accounts issued by small businesses not paid within 30 days, interest is paid in accordance with *Finance Circular 2012/02: Procurement On-Time Payment Policy for Small Business*, issued by the Department of Finance. The amount paid since 7 September 2013 is \$9,293.18
8. Interest is payable at the general interest charge rate, determined under section 8AAD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953*, on the day the payment was due.