

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian National Audit Office

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Government payment of accounts

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: 359

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

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

Answer:

Q1. The ANAO complied with Government policy in respect of supplier payment terms. The average time period for the payment of supplier accounts for the period 1 February – 31 May 2014 was 11 days.

Q2. Of a total of 1,304 payments, 1,288 payments were made within 30 days. This represents a percentage of 98.8 %.

Q3. Of a total of 1,304 payments, 14 payments were made between 30 and 60 days. This represents a percentage of 1.0%.

Q4. Of a total of 1,304 payments, 2 payments were made between 60 and 90 days. This represents a percentage of 0.2%.

Q5. There were nil payments made between 90-120 days.

Q6. There were nil payments made greater than 120 days.

Q7. Late payments can arise due to disputed invoices or clarification of goods or services rendered prior to making payment. There was no interest paid on overdue amounts.

Q8. Refer response to Q7.