

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

**Outcome/Program:**

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

**Topic:** Government Payment of Accounts

**Senator:** 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 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 1 March 2014 to 31 May 2014, the average time period for the Office to pay its accounts to contractors, consultants or others was 13 days.
- (2) 369 payments (88.28%) owed by the Office were paid in under 30 days.
- (3) 40 payments (9.57%) owed by the Office were paid in between 30 and 60 days.
- (4) Four (4) payments (0.96%) owed by the Office were paid in between 60 and 90 days.
- (5) Three (3) payments (0.72%) owed by the Office were paid in between 90 and 120 days.
- (6) Two (2) payments (0.48%) owed by the Office were paid in over 120 days.
- (7) No interest is being paid on overdue amounts.
- (8) Not applicable.