

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Budget Estimates – May 2014**  
ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**Program 1:** Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

**Outcome 1:** The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

**Topic:** Government payments of accounts

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question reference number:** QoN 359

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of Pages:** 2

- a) 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?
- 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 Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
- h) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

- a) The Office has adopted a policy of paying invoices within one week of them being presented ready for payment at the Finance Section, by the appropriately delegated official. Under this policy the Office is confident that all invoices have and will be paid within 30 days of agreement that they have been correctly rendered, as annotated by the delegated official on the invoice. The Office does not collect or hold statistics on this matter.
- b) As above.
- c) As above.
- d) As above.
- e) As above.
- f) As above.
- g) No interest has been paid or is payable for overdue accounts as the Office has not been presented with an invoice (correctly rendered or otherwise) for interest by a supplier.
- h) N/A.