

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES (SUPPLEMENTARY HEARINGS) 2013-2014**

**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:** 172

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 17 January 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

- (1) From 7 September 2013 to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc. in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)?
- (2) If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc. as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached).
- (3) 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 for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- (4) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

- (1) From 7 September 2013 to date, the Office has paid its accounts to contractors/consultants within 30 days.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.

(4) Not applicable.