

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Program: General**

**Question No. AE16/088**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. 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? f) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
6. 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 the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015?
7. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

1-5. For the period 14 September 2015 to 9 February 2016 please find the portfolio's response in the table below.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in under 30 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 30 and 60 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 60 and 90 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 90 and 120 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in over 120 days</b>
Attorney-General's Department	5,058 84.05%	711 11.81%	149 2.48%	66 1.10%	34 0.56%
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	\$33,905,087 94.68%	\$1,401,299 3.91%	\$321,054 0.90%	\$172,841 0.48%	\$8,573 0.02%
Australian Crime Commission	193 93.7%	13 6.3%	Nil	Nil	Nil

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in under 30 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 30 and 60 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 60 and 90 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 90 and 120 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in over 120 days</b>
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	4,219 100%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Federal Police	544 97.84%	12 4.86%	0	0	0
Australian Financial Security Authority	1317 83.78%	186 11.83%	37 2.35%	32 2.04%	N/A
Australian Human Rights Commission	1,334 94%	84 6%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Australian Institute of Criminology	566 99.6%	2 0.4%	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Law Reform Commission	420 100%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	5,096 92%	319 6%	73 1%	32 <1%	11 <1%
Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (14/9/15 – 14/3/16)	1723 96.8%	40 2.25%	11 0.62%	4 0.22%	2 0.11%
CrimTrac (1/9/15 – 31/1/16)	487 87.28%	49 8.78%	21 3.76%	1 0.18%	0
Family Court of Australia and Federal Circuit	5171 98.85%	52 0.99%	5 0.10%	3 0.06%	0 0.00%

Agency	Payments owed that have been paid in under 30 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 30 and 60 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 60 and 90 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 90 and 120 days	Payments owed that have been paid in over 120 days
Court of Australia					
Federal Court of Australia	3108 92.22%	171 5.07%	57 1.69%	33 0.98%	1 0.00%
High Court of Australia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
National Archives of Australia	1,433 98.2%	23 1.6%	3 0.2%	0 0%	0 0%
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	433 97.1%	11 2.5%	1 0.2%	1 0.2%	0 0%
Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	4210 94.50%	172 3.86%	30 0.67%	13 0.29%	30 0.67%
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	23 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

6.

- *Australian Federal Police* will pay a total of \$218 interest on <7 overdue accounts. AFP is still finalising the interest payment. Other overdue accounts are not eligible for interest payments as the interest is less than \$10.
- *Australian Financial Security Authority* has paid a total of \$181.64 interest on two overdue accounts.
- *Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre* has paid a total of \$813.07 interest on sixteen overdue accounts.
- *National Archives of Australia* has paid a total of \$143.45 (GST inclusive) interest on one overdue amount since 14 September 2015.

All other agencies have not paid interest on overdue accounts.

7. For the portfolio, the rate of interest utilised is the General Interest Charge Rate. The rate is published by the Australian Taxation Office, and is expressed as a decimal rate per day.