

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL 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:** 177

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. From Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 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:**

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 December – 31 January 2014 was 15 days.

Q2. Of a total of 473 payments, 453 payments were made within 30 days. This represents a percentage of 95.8%.

Q3. Of a total of 473 payments, 19 payments were made between 30 and 60 days. This represents a percentage of 4%.

Q4. Of a total of 473 payments, 1 payment was 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.