

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2011
ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Senator: FIFIELD

Question reference number: PM143

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of Pages: 1

1. 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)? If not, why not, and 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.)
2. 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?
3. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

1. The Office has adopted a policy of paying invoices within one week of them being presented ready for payment at our Finance Section, by the appropriately delegated official. Under this policy we are confident that all invoices have and will be paid within 30 days of our 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.
2. No interest has been paid or payable for overdue accounts as the Office has not been presented with an invoice (correctly rendered or otherwise) for interest by a supplier.
3. N/A