

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

**Outcome/Program:** 1

**Topic:** Government payment of accounts

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** 93

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 July 2013

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

For this financial year 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)?

- (1) 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).
- (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) Consistent with Government policy, the Office aims to pay all accounts within 30 days. We are not aware of any payments that have not met this timeframe. Our systems do not allow us to readily report on related specific details.
- (2) N/A.
- (3) N/A.