

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2012**  
ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**Program 1:** Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

**Outcome 1:** The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

**Topic:** Payment of Accounts 2011-12

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** PM110

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 30 November 2012

**Number of Pages:** 1

For 2011-12, did the department/agency pay 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? 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)
- For accounts not paid within 30 days, is/was 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?
- Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?
- Have all accounts from 2011-12 been paid? If no, why not?

**Answer:**

The Office has adopted a policy of paying invoices within one week of them being presented ready for payment at the Finance Section, by the appropriately delegated official. It is possible that in the 2011-12 FY a small number of invoices may not have been paid within 30 days of our agreement that they have been correctly rendered, as annotated by the delegated official on the invoice, due to staffing changeovers. The Office does not collect or hold statistics on this matter.

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.

N/A

Yes