

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 173

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/16

Topic: Government payments of accounts

Senator Ludwig asked:

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? 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 Estimates, 2014?
7. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

1. 40 days
2. Under 30 days: 97 payments (48%), noting however the ABC's standard payment terms are 30 Days Commercial (30 days from the end of the month the invoice was raised) so the remaining 52% of payments are not necessarily overdue.
3. 30-60 days: 77 payments (38%)
4. 60-90 days: 12 payments (6%)
5. 90-120 days: 12 payments (6%) and 120 days +: 5 payments (2%)
- 6-7. It is extremely rare for interest to be charged by a supplier as the reason for deferred payment is typically due to a mutual understanding (i.e. disputed charges etc.).