Question No: 173(c)

Special Broadcasting Service

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Government Payments and Accounts

Senator Ludwig, Joe 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? f) 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. In December 2015, the average time period for payment of accounts was 26 days from the date of invoicing.

2. SBS does not capture data in this way. SBS standard payment terms are 30 days – all payments are made within this timing unless they are being followed up due to incorrect invoicing or service delivery. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

3. Refer to answer 2.

4. Refer to answer 2.

5. Refer to answer 2.

6. Accounts are paid within the terms of trade, unless they are being disputed with the creditors.

7. No interest has been paid.