

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group: Written

Program: Whole-of-Portfolio

Question: BE14/159

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

1. From Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, 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?
6. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
7. 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 7 September 2013?
8. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1 - 6. The portfolio's response to this question is set out in the table below.

Agency	Payments owed that have been paid in under 30 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 30 and 60 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 60 and 90 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 90 and 120 days	Payments owed that have been paid in over 120 days
Attorney-General's Department	1,392 (97%)	43 (3%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	2,341 (95.4%)	86 (3.5%)	24 (1%)	1 (less than 0.1%)	1 (less than 0.1%)

Agency	Payments owed that have been paid in under 30 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 30 and 60 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 60 and 90 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 90 and 120 days	Payments owed that have been paid in over 120 days
Australian Crime Commission	252 (95%)	11 (4.2%)	Nil	2 (0.8%)	Nil (0%)
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	673 (100%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Federal Police	238 (99.16%)	1 (0.42%)	1 (0.42%)	Nil	Nil
Australian Financial Security Authority	2,254 (87%)	218 (8%)	33 (1%)	84 (4%) AFSA's financial data does not break down any further categories beyond 90+ days.	
Australian Human Rights Commission	2362 (95%)	135 (5%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Institute of Criminology	517 (99.81%)	1 (0.19%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Law Reform Commission	485 (100%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation	3709 (90%)	340 (8.2%)	50 (1.2%)	18 (0.4%)	7 (0.2%)
AUSTRAC	2,552 (100%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	8,268 (90.2%)	789 (8.61%)	69 (0.75%)	17 (0.19%)	23 (0.25%)
CrimTrac	608 (81.39%)	98 (13.12%)	28 (3.75%)	11 (1.47%)	2 (0.27%)
Family and Federal Circuit Court	6,772 (97%)	190 (3%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Federal Court of Australia	5,335 (95%)	253 (4%)	59 (1%)	Nil	Nil
High Court of Australia	The High Court of Australia pays its accounts to contactors/consultants etc in a timely manner although the Government's policy does not apply to the Court.				
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	856 (91%)	77 (8%)	7 (1%)	Nil	Nil
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	760 (100%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
National Archives of Australia	2,065 (96.99%)	61 (2.87%)	2 (0.09%)	1 (0.05%)	Nil
Australia Council for	6,808 (99%)	69 (1%)	Nil	Nil	Nil

Agency	Payments owed that have been paid in under 30 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 30 and 60 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 60 and 90 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 90 and 120 days	Payments owed that have been paid in over 120 days
the Arts					
Australian Film Television and Radio School	1,759 (100%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bundanon Trust	610 (95%)	26 (4%)	7 (1%)	Nil	Nil
Creative Partnerships Australia	1235 (100%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
National Museum of Australia	The Museum is not subject to the Procurement On-Time Payment Policy and does not record information at this level.				
Australian National Maritime Museum	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
National Gallery of Australia	7258 (more than 98%)	148 (Less than 2%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
National Film and Sound Archive of Australia	5,781 (95%)	304 (5%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Museum of Australian Democracy / Old Parliament House	To attempt to provide the additional detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.				
National Library of Australia	5,294 (98.75%).	38 (0.71%).	2 (0.04%).	6 (0.10%).	21 (0.4%).
National Portrait Gallery of Australia	1270 (89%)	127 (9%)	29 (2%)	Nil	Nil
Screen Australia	244 (91.72%)	13 (4.88%)	5 (1.88%)	2 (less than 1%)	2 (less than 1%)

7. For the Attorney-General's Department and portfolio agencies no interest is being paid or has been paid with the following exceptions:

Australian Federal Police

For the one instance where the payment was over the 60 days threshold, the potential interest payment had not been calculated as at 29 May 2014.

Australian Financial Security Authority

Yes, interest is being paid on overdue amounts to small businesses only.

Payments totalling \$1,193 (GST ex) have been made since 7 September 2013.

8. For the Attorney-General's Department and portfolio agencies, the rate of interest to be used will be the General Interest Charge Rate. The rate is published by the Australian Taxation Office and is expressed as a decimal rate per day.