

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013**  
**Communications Portfolio**

**Question No: 20**

**Program No. Corporate**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Government Payments of Accounts**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

- a) From 7 September 2013 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)?
- b) 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)
- c) 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?
- d) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

- a) For the period 7 September 2013 to 30 November 2013, 918 payments were made of which 883 or 96% were made within 30 days of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice. The average number of days for all payments was 15 days.
- b) Please see response for question (a).
- c) In line with Finance Circular No 2012/02, interest is payable to small businesses on request from the small business for payments made after 30 days and on, or prior to 60 days, from receipt of the correctly rendered invoice, or via a self-generated payment for penalty interest where payments are made after 60 days from receipt of the correctly rendered invoice. No invoices have been received and no interest has been paid.
- d) Not applicable.