

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

**Question: AET 591 - 594**

**Topic: Government Payments of Accounts (Tsy)**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

591. For this financial year 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)?
- a. If not, why not
592. 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
593. 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?
594. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

591. Yes. The Treasury follows government policy for payment of accounts within 30 days, however there can be instances where payment of accounts is delayed.
592. Between 1 July 2011 and 31 January 2012, the Treasury paid 99% of all suppliers within 30 days of receipt of a correctly rendered tax invoice.
593. No. Between 1 July 2011 and 31 January 2012, no small business claimed interest from Treasury.
594. In determining the interest payable to small business in relation to late payments, Treasury follows Finance Circular 2008/10. This is available on the Department of Finance and Deregulation website.