

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14  
21 November 2013

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Government Payments of Accounts

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Ludwig

**QUESTION No.:** SI-170

1. 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)? 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).
2. 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?
3. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**ANSWER**

1. Information relating to the Department's payment of accounts for the period 1 September 2013 to 30 November 2013 is provided in the table below. Late payments are primarily the result of administrative delays, such as non-timely confirmation of receipt of goods or services before invoices are passed to the processing phase.

	<b>Industry*</b>
Total invoices processed	40,913
Total number paid within 30 days	40,894
Total percentage paid within 30 days	99.95%
Total number not paid within 30 days	19
Total percentage not paid within 30 days	0.05%

\* The above information has been provided from 1 September 2013 in line with the Department's monthly reporting cycle. To provide the information from 7 September 2013 would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.

2. For the financial year to date, the department has not paid any interest on overdue amounts. Last financial year \$1,853.25 in interest was paid on overdue amounts.
3. The Australian Taxation Office general interest charge rate is applied.

Please note as this information is as at 30 November 2013, it does not include the Anti-Dumping Commission. The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service will report on the Commission where appropriate in their responses to 2013-14 Budget Estimates Questions on Notice.