

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011**  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Department/Agency:** Australian Public Service Commission

**Outcome/Output Group:** 1.1

**Topic:** Government Payments of Accounts

**Senator:** Abetz

**Question reference number:** PM 127

- a) 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, and 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.)
- b) 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?
- c) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 3 December 2010

**Number of pages:** One

**Answer:**

- a) The Commission does not have an information management system from which to extract a breakdown or average statistics on time taken to effect payments. The Commission regularly issues advice to managers and staff reminding them of the government's terms of payment and we have no reason to believe that there is systematic non-compliance with the payment policy.
- b) The Commission's standard form contract details a clause to establish the basis for payment of simple interest. No invoices seeking late payment interest have been received.
- c) Not applicable.