

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-12

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Program 1: Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

Outcome 1: The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Senator: RYAN

Question reference number: PM143

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of Pages: 2

Question:

1. For the year 2010-11, did 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.)
 - For accounts not paid within 30 days, was 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?
 - Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?
2. For the FYTD, 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.)
 - 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?
 - Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

1. The Office has adopted a policy of paying invoices within one week of them being presented ready for payment at its Finance Section, by the appropriately delegated official. Under this policy we are

confident that all invoices received in 2010-11 have been paid within 30 days of our agreement that they have been correctly rendered, as annotated by the delegated official on the invoice.

N/A

No interest has been paid or payable for overdue accounts as the Office has not been presented with an invoice (correctly rendered or otherwise) for interest by a supplier.

2. The Office has adopted a policy of paying invoices within one week of them being presented ready for payment at its Finance Section, by the appropriately delegated official. It is possible that this FYTD a small number of invoices may not have been paid within 30 days of our agreement that they have been correctly rendered, as annotated by the delegated official on the invoice, due to staffing changeovers.

The Office does not collect or hold statistics on this matter.

N/A

No interest has been paid or payable for overdue accounts as the Office has not been presented with an invoice (correctly rendered or otherwise) for interest by a supplier.