

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 17-18 OCTOBER 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: All
Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 143

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. For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 the department paid 13,083 invoices. Ten per cent of these were paid later than 30 days and 3% were paid later than 60 days.

No interest was paid on overdue accounts.

2. For the period 1 July to 30 September 2011 the department paid 4,557 invoices. Twelve per cent of these were paid greater later than 30 days and 2% of accounts were paid later 60 days.

No interest was paid on overdue accounts.