

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Australian Public Service Commission  
**Outcome/Program:** Cross Portfolio  
**Topic:** Payments of Accounts 2011-12

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** 110

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, November 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

For 2011-12, 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? 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)
- 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?
- Have all accounts from 2011-12 been paid? If no, why not?

**Answer:**

It is the Australian Public Service Commission's (APSC) policy to pay accounts within 30 days of invoicing. For 2011-12, the majority of the accounts were paid within the terms of time of payment (i.e. within 30 days)

- An extract from the APSC's financial system shows 86 percent of all invoices received in 2010-11 have been paid within 30 days of supplier issue date. Please note the APSC does not record the date invoices have been correctly rendered or lodged, which could be a later date than the supplier invoice date. Therefore the late payment statistics are likely to be overstated.
- The APSC standard form contract details a clause to establish the basis for payment of simple interest. There is no late payment fee incurred in 2011-12.
- Not applicable.
- All accounts received and authorised for payment pertaining to 2011-12 have been paid.