

ESTIMATES 2006

Question on Notice

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45 Indigenous Affairs Richard Mulcahy

Payments to small business

Mr Richard Mulcahy MLA: To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs – In relation to payments made by the Minister’s department to small business:

For 2004–2005, (a) how many, and (b) what proportion of payments made by the Minister’s department to small business were not made within:

- (i) 30 days of receipt of the goods or services and a proper invoice in accordance with Government procurement policy
- (ii) 60 days of receipt of the goods or services and a proper invoice in accordance with Government procurement policy.

Mr Jon Stanhope MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Department’s financial systems are not configured to identify which payments are made to small businesses versus other businesses, or the proportion of invoices paid within payment terms.

Answering the Member's question would necessitate individual checking of all invoices. This would be a time consuming and uneconomic exercise, and an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2006–2007

By the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

Date: