

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY  
QUESTION NUMBER: 77 [NW81E]  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 10 FEBRUARY 2022**

**77. Mr R A Lees (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

What are the details of the average time periods for value-added tax refunds claimed by (a) taxpayers and (b) vendors that were payable to taxpayers and vendors during the six months that ended on (i) 31 August 2019, (ii) 31 March 2020, (iii) 31 August 2020, (iv) 31 March 2021, (v) 31 August 2021 and (vi) the three months that ended on 31 December 2021?

NW81E

**REPLY**

The South African Revenue Service, in processing all refunds, will always seek to balance the protection of the fiscus from illegitimate refund claims and the optimal processing of all those refunds that are legitimate. This balance is further enhanced when considering that more than R50bn in illegitimate refunds are prevented from flowing out of the fiscus every year.

The below table depicts the ageing of VAT refunds claimed by vendors and paid for the periods in question. The ageing is as per working days from assessment date to payment date.

TAT	31-Aug-19		31-Mar-20		31-Aug-20		31-Mar-21		31-Dec-21	
	Value	Cases	Value	Cases	Value	Cases	Value	Cases	Value	Cases
0 - 3 days	61 428 143 012.71	155633	53 335 373 901.19	230838	38 702 528 935.72	166264	68 797 095 218.87	232765	94 309 741 492.50	280633
4 - 7 days	15 287 908 715.71	8867	30 487 796 210.55	18714	8 417 607 042.32	7846	8 426 761 781.02	8051	13 008 632 588.18	16654
8 - 21 days	10 260 923 803.77	20604	29 852 539 043.57	21484	18 423 848 000.11	20712	19 791 814 292.90	22738	31 471 524 496.38	28224
22 - 31 days	3 298 591 915.79	7350	8 563 051 368.97	8372	8 331 668 546.43	10090	11 634 954 784.88	9516	15 132 734 792.05	12456
32 - 90 days	4 792 146 661.47	12446	7 497 717 818.62	12589	14 765 300 178.43	18217	20 736 752 959.29	32173	30 388 127 603.34	44429
91 days - 365 days	1 853 592 858.49	9641	2 576 077 711.03	10149	2 394 709 604.98	8650	5 760 093 984.14	15621	7 038 581 181.65	25219
1 - 2 years	297 953 788.56	2801	376 760 912.06	3506	248 746 925.49	2020	299 914 269.96	3578	687 023 994.10	5428
Greater than 2 years	36 262 649.18	571	94 592 574.81	1076	41 195 127.76	806	198 761 514.13	1793	246 144 336.66	2846
Could not calculate TAT	766 611 390.00	8257	878 467 118.06	11324	281 588 800.20	5427	536 363 525.26	10993	664 943 248.79	13162
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>98 022 134 795.68</b>	<b>226170</b>	<b>133 662 376 658.86</b>	<b>318052</b>	<b>91 607 193 161.44</b>	<b>240032</b>	<b>136 182 512 330.45</b>	<b>337228</b>	<b>192 947 453 733.65</b>	<b>429051</b>

From this table it is clear that the bulk of VAT refund payments made are made within the 21 working days. This is in line with the fact that approximately only 20% of VAT claims are stopped for verification to mitigate potential compliance risks.