

8<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**Our ref:** R251

**RE: Freedom of Information Request**

Further to my letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010 I am writing to provide you with the outstanding information relating to your request dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

**4. Please provide me with a copy of any submissions made to government departments on the effects of budget cuts on your organisation since 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010.**

As I indicated in my earlier previous letter, SEEDA does hold a copy of a letter sent from Jane Henderson, lead Chief Executive for the RDA Network at the time, to Philippa Lloyd, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010. This letter included a consolidated spreadsheet showing the indicative impact of the budgets cuts for all Regional Development Agencies. We have now completed our consultation with third parties and are now able to release this letter to you along with a copy of SEEDA's element of the consolidated spreadsheet - please find this attached as Appendix 1.

I should stress that this submission to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills represented an indicative illustration of the impact of the in-year cuts on SEEDA's economic development work in the South East. SEEDA has carried out extensive discussions with partners – in both the public and private sectors - to minimise the impact on the ground of the reduction of nearly 30% in SEEDA's programme spend for 2010/11. These discussions with our partners continue as part of our economic development work, for example to find alternative investment models to make up for the reduction in SEEDA's ability to contribute.

SEEDA has also taken other measures to offset the impact of potential cuts. These include maximising the level of receipts to off-set cuts, and taking back unused grant funds awarded to Local Authorities. This additional funding has been used to mitigate the impact of budget cuts. So, for example, the Agency is able to honour existing legal commitments relating to investment in the University of Chichester's Bognor campus, notwithstanding the entry in the spreadsheet.

You may find it helpful to read the letters to regional stakeholders detailing SEEDA's approach to implementing the budget cuts, sent by our Chief Executive, Pam Alexander, in June and July 2010. Please find these attached as Appendix 2.

**Disclosure Log**

This information will also be made available on SEEDA's Freedom of Information Disclosure Log on the SEEDA website:

[http://www.seeda.co.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/foi\\_disclosure\\_log](http://www.seeda.co.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/foi_disclosure_log)



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)

SEEDA Headquarters Cross Lanes Guildford GU1 1YA England

**Tel** +44 (0)1483 484 200 **Fax** +44 (0)1483 484 247 **email** info@seeda.co.uk **web** www.seeda.co.uk

Personal details and other information that could identify requesters are redacted (removed) from the disclosure log version.

Appendices :

1. Letter to Philippa Lloyd dated 8<sup>th</sup> June and related SEEDA spreadsheet
2. Letters to regional stakeholders dated 28<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010