

9th June 2008

Our ref: R00046

Freedom of Information Request – Arc Manche

Your Request is:

- 1. What are the exact terms of reference of this organisation?*
- 2. Which public authorities will be represented?*
- 3. How will these representatives be selected?*
- 4. What authority will the representatives have to make decisions and what procedures will then follow to give those decisions effect?*
- 5. Have any preliminary meetings been held amongst the parties involved. If so what progress was made and decisions taken?*
- 6. What is the cost to the local council, and thus the local residents, and how is this money being levied?*
- 7. Given that this agency straddles the English Channel, what impact will its activities have on fishing, mineral rights and sovereignty of the sea bed?*
- 8. By what authority will the Arc Manche engage itself with similar organisations elsewhere in Europe, and what will such activity cost on an annual basis?*
- 9. I understand that West Sussex County Council has already entered into an agreement with the Upper Normandy Regional Council, again, under the Freedom of Information Act, may I please have a copy of this agreement and a summary of the costs generated so far.*

Information Requested

SEEDA and Arc Manche

SEEDA is aware of Arc Manche and SEEDA representatives attend meeting at which Arc Manche representatives also attend, however Arc Manche is completely independent of SEEDA and is made up of Local Authorities on both sides of La Manche who have decided to form a loose network lobbying group concerned with issues of mutual interest, such as environmental concerns and regional economic strategy. While SEEDA holds general information about the role and scope of Arc Manche it does not hold the detailed information you have requested. Currently West Sussex County Council (WSCC) is the Lead Local Authority and we suggest that you contact WSCC for the most up to date information on the activities of the group.

We also wish to clarify that, as network lobby group, Arc Manche is not an Agency of the UK or French governments and has no legal status to make decisions regarding issues outside of the statutory responsibilities of its constituent members

Response to your questions

Where possible, SEEDA has answered your general questions below:

1. Terms of Reference

Please contact WSCC.

2. Membership

Local Authorities bordering La Manche who wish to join. Please contact WSCC for the latest list.

3. Representatives

Representatives are elected councillors or officials of the Local Authorities participating in Arc Manche.

4. Authority

As stated above Arc Manche is a network lobby group of Local authorities bordering La Manche. The member Local Authorities do not have powers outside of their statutory responsibilities.

5. Latest Developments

Please contact WSCC.

6. Costs.

It will be necessary to contact individual member Local Authorities for details of costs. WSCC can supply a current list.

7. Sovereignty Issues.

Such issues will remain under the control of National Governments of the United Kingdom and France, within the framework of European Law.

8. Arc Manche contact with other similar organisations

Please contact WSCC.

9. WSCC agreement with the Upper Normandy Regional Council

Please contact WSCC.