

10 March 2009

Our ref: R00087

Freedom of Information Request - Chief Executive's expenses, cost of overseas offices, details of major development projects

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request, dated 10th February 2009, concerning SEEDA.

Your request is:

Can you let me know:

1. The expenses paid to your Chief Executive Officer Pam Alexander for the last complete financial year into their various categories
2. The full costs of running each of your offices in Brussels, Japan and Australia including staff costs, pension liabilities and all other expenses
3. Details of 5 major development projects which have taken place during the last ten years and which would not have come about except for your main involvement

Information provided:

1. Expenses paid to SEEDA's Chief Executive, Pam Alexander.

As part of her role as Chief Executive of SEEDA Pam Alexander routinely travels from meeting to meeting across the region and into London to meet business people, delivery partners and senior officials in central and local government. Travel expenses paid to her in 2007/08 were £23,605.48, accommodation expenses £1,467.21 and subsistence & hospitality a total of £439.29.

Pam Alexander's expenses for the financial year 2007/08:

Expense category	Amount £
Travel	23,605.48
Accommodation	1,467.21
Subsistence & Hospitality	439.29

2. The full costs of running each of SEEDA's offices in Brussels, Japan and Australia including staff costs, pension liabilities and all other expenses

SEEDA maintains a joint representation in Brussels with the South East England Regional Assembly in an office shared with a range of partners such as Kent County Council and the Southern England Local Partners. The lease for the representative office rented by SEEDA is held by Kent County Council.

Figures provided cover the financial year 2007/08:

Country	Staff costs	Pension liabilities	Other expenses
Brussels*)	GBP 145,776	GBP 11,149	GBP 52,869
Japan (Rep x 1) JYP 12,002,573 = GBP 52,907.26 (based on 1/4/7 exchange rate).	JYP 9,100,000 = GBP 39,262.50 (comprised of office rent included in a retainer fee)		JYP 2,902,573 = GBP 13,644.76 (running costs)
Australia (Rep x 1) (based on 1/4/7 exchange rate)	AUD 174,000 = GBP 71,552.70		figures are not broken down further

*) The South East England Brussels Office is shared between the South East England Regional Assembly and SEEDA. SEEDA is the managing authority with the Regional Assembly contributing £75,672 towards the salaries and running costs of the office, hence the net costs to SEEDA for the Brussels office in 2007/08 were £134,122.

3. Details of 5 major development projects which have taken place during the last ten years and which would not have come about except for SEEDA's main involvement

1. Chatham Maritime - with over £400 million of public and private funds invested so far, this is the largest Government funded project outside of London. The development will provide 3,200 homes and workspace for 2,500 people plus essential services and leisure facilities;
2. The Kent Coalfield - where redundant, derelict, former colliery sites are being brought to productive use through the creation of jobs and leisure facilities;
3. Tackling the economic and social problems of the region's coastal towns, and devising a radical five point plan for the regeneration of Hastings & Bexhill. The integrated plan will include some £400 million of public and private investment providing a new university, regenerating the town centre, improving and building new housing and creating a competitive business environment supported by Broadband technology;
4. Setting up a Regional Design Panel, Design Champion's Club and substantially increasing the region's capacity for Architecture Centres. These will ensure that future building projects in the South East are of the highest architectural and environmental standards;
5. Creating an advisory service - Building for Nature - to guide developers and local authorities on how to address issues such as biodiversity and ecology in their development schemes;

Open for Business' - A Guide to Business Support in the South East has been provided. Our results from last year can be viewed on the website via the following hyperlink http://www.seeda.co.uk/Publications/Annual_Reports/