

24th July 2009

Our ref: R00134

Freedom of Information Request – UK Produced Food

Your request to SEEDA is:

- *“whether the regional development agency has a policy in place for sourcing and procuring UK-produced food for its catering operations and official functions;*
- *what any such policy may be;*
- *what proportion of food procured by the regional development agency in the past twelve months was produced in the UK.”*

Information Requested

Catering Operations

SEEDA's offices do not have staff restaurants and are not equipped for catering operations. Staff bring their own food to work, or purchase food from local shops and suppliers who visit the premises.

Policy

SEEDA operates an informal policy of using local produce at Corporate and Rural events wherever possible. SEEDA also supports public procurement of local food through the South East Food Group Partnership: <http://www.sefgp.co.uk/Display.aspx?id=40> – we pay for a specific post to work with public bodies, including health authorities, to see how we can get more local produce used by them.

SEEDA funds six local food groups across the region and one example of local food sourcing is Hampshire which has been particularly successful with introducing local produce into school dinners. SEEDA recently supported a project on developing a fish cake, using locally caught fish, which has been used in several county schools.

Proportion of UK Produced Food procured by SEEDA

Food sourcing for events is not recorded in SEEDA's financial systems, so it is not possible to report what proportion of food is produced in the UK. Neither is

this information readily available, without detailed interrogation and analysis of suppliers. However in the absence of contrary information it is fair to assume that the proportion is typical of UK consumers generally, with a measurable predisposition to favour locally produced food.