

31st July 2009

Your ref: Email dated 07.07.09
Our ref: R00136

Freedom of Information Request – SEEDA Hospitality, Sponsorship & Events

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request, dated 7th July 2009, concerning SEEDA Hospitality, Sponsorship & Events.

Your request to SEEDA is:

“About hospitality, sponsorship and entertainment events organised/hosted by SEEDA/members of SEEDA.

Please provide the following information:

Details of all such events for the financial year 2008-2009. This should include both corporate events/hospitality provided by SEEDA and events such as meals or other hospitality offered by individuals.

Please provide within this information:

- *The date(s) on which each event took place*
- *SEEDA personnel who attended or hosted event and where it was*
- *Guests who attended*
- *The total costs, including a sum for food and drink if appropriate*

If the event was attended by a large number of people, I do not require individual details. If any of the information is to be withheld, please set out which section of the Act has been applied.”

SEEDA discussed with you on 23/7/2009 how to focus your request to provide the maximum information within the appropriate limit. It was agreed that SEEDA will provide information about SEEDA Corporate Events costing over £1000, previously disclosed to other requestors, and details of entertainment included within individual expense claims over £1000, both for the Financial Year 2008/09.

Information requested

Corporate Events

Corporate events staged by SEEDA are shown below. This list does not include small-scale, roadshow-type events that are designed to deliver business support advice to businesses across the South East.

Complete and accurate records of the attendance at these events are not available. SEEDA does not believe it is the public interest to provide incomplete information about attendance at these events and is also applying the exemption for Personal Data under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act to not identify individuals who are known to have attended.

The costs include venue hire, attendee handouts and the provision of appropriate refreshments.

Date	Event Title	Venue	Purpose	Cost
4 Jul 08	First Regional Economic Strategy Partners' Conference	Mandolay Hotel, Guildford	Agree actions needed to deliver regional economic targets in the face of the impending economic downturn.	£5,450
8 July 08	Skills Summit	Sofitel Hotel, Gatwick	Business briefing on national and regional skills issues, offering business the opportunity to influence skills strategy.	£3,398
7 Aug 08	Economic Prospects – Ministerial Launch	Sofitel Hotel, Gatwick	Businesses invited to update Ministers on the initial impact of the economic downturn. SEEDA's £10m regional support package for businesses was launched at this event.	£11,700
16 Sep 08	Liberal Democrat Conference – Fringe Meeting	Westcliff Brasserie, Bournemouth	Highlighting importance of the South East's £2bn sustainable business sector, including success case study on low carbon business practices.	£4,736
23 Sep 08	Labour Party Conference – Fringe Meeting	GMEX Centre, Manchester	Mainstreaming zero carbon and zero waste in business, including success case study.	£4,871
30 Sep 08	Conservative Party Conference – Fringe Meeting	Hyatt Regency, Birmingham	The role of hi-tech business in the South East economy, including success case study on creating jobs and attracting £250m investment to the region.	£3,310

Date	Event Title	Venue	Purpose	Cost
30 Oct 08	Annual Open Public Meeting	Southampton Cruise Terminal	A requirement under the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998, to report on SEEDA's performance over the previous financial year and set out plans for the future.	£30,356
10 Nov 08	Regional Housing Summit	Institute of Directors, London	Working meeting with leading house builders and housing organisations, to understand the impact of poor market conditions on house building and identify actions to help revitalise this key element of the South East economy.	£2,465
02 Dec 08	Regional Infrastructure Conference	Sofitel, Gatwick	Gain agreement on the key infrastructure improvements needed across the South East to inform regional advice to Government and identify how projects can be delivered despite the economic downturn.	£3,474
29 Jan 09	Second Regional Economic Strategy Partners' Conference	Mandolay, Guildford	Review impact of recession on regional economic targets and identify actions for SEEDA and partners that will maximise economic potential during the downturn.	£10,991

Individual Hospitality

SEEDA has checked the staff entertainment expense claims made during 2008/09 and found that none exceeded the agreed limit of £1000.

As discussed earlier it has not been possible to provide a more detailed analysis within out extracting all individual expense claims, which would exceed the appropriate limit.