

7th January 2010

Your ref: email dated 17th December 2009
Our ref: R000187

Freedom of Information Request – Support for Volunteering Initiatives

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request, dated 17th December 2009, concerning support for volunteering initiatives.

Your request to SEEDA is:

*“What funding has been provided to support volunteering initiatives:
a) in general and
b) for the Olympics in particular in each of the last 5 years?.”*

Information Held

General Volunteering Initiatives

SEEDA has not specifically funded any general volunteering initiatives during the last five years. As an Agency we have provided funding to organisations that promote volunteering within the region and have also supported projects which include a volunteering element; however our funding did not directly relate to this area of activity.

Olympic Volunteering Initiatives

Under our programme of support for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games SEEDA will provide the following funding that directly relates to volunteering activity:

- £30K grant to BT in 2009/10 to develop a website that will promote volunteering activities within the region's schools.
- SEEDA is also working with a new organisation, the English Volunteering Development Council, to develop a regional volunteering strategy linked to the Games. It is expected that SEEDA support for this work will be £50K in the period 2009 to 2011, however this is not yet confirmed.

SEEDA is also providing an £850K grant towards the £4.5m partnership project, ACCENTUATE, over the period 2008 to 2011. This project includes a range of activities focused on addressing cultural, social and economic participation

amongst the disabled population of the region. The project aims to provide opportunities for 300 young disabled people in the South East to volunteer for cultural events and within cultural organisations. However SEEDA funding will be used only to provide economic outcomes including skills development and increasing employment.

SEEDA's actual and forecast expenditure, in direct support of volunteering initiatives, for the period 2005/2011, is shown in the following table.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
General	£0K	£0K	£0K	£0K	£0K	£0K
Olympic	£0K	£0K	£0K	£0K	£60K	£20K