

**Our ref: R00214**

17 June 2010

## **Freedom of Information Request – Grants to SMEs**

Thank you for your request dated 2 May 2010, made under the terms of the Freedom of Act 2000. Your request to SEEDA is:

*Disclosure of the full list of grants provided to small and medium size businesses in last 5 years. Please provide me the information as:*

- *Name of Recipients*
- *Locations*
- *Amount of grant*
- *Purpose of grant*

Subsequently you clarified your request in your email dated 24 May 2010:

*Please disclose the following grants information.*

- 1. Grant for Research and Development*
- 2. Grant for Business Investment*

## **Information Requested**

As requested we are disclosing information regarding two grant schemes which SEEDA operates through Finance South East as part of the Solutions for Business portfolio. Please note that all details were correct at the time of grant award. The grant amounts listed are the amount awarded and may not necessarily have been fully paid to date.

You have requested details of the purpose of grant awarded and SEEDA can confirm that all grants awarded under these programmes will fall within the purposes described below.

The purpose of Grants for Research and Development (GR&D) is to assist small and medium-sized enterprises to carry out research and development work on technologically innovative products and processes. Appendix 1 explains the different types of grants available under this programme in detail and appendix 2 provides the information you have requested for this programme.

The purpose of Grants for Business Investment (GBI) is to assist businesses in increasing productivity by funding capital investment in equipment, technology and premises. The grants are designed for businesses looking to expand, modernise, rationalise, diversify and increase productivity in order to maintain or establish sustainable growth and provide skilled jobs. The Grant for Business Investment scheme replaced an older product called Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE) in October 2008. Appendix 3 provides the information you have requested for this grants programme.



Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. We estimate that to provide full details of the purposes of all grants included within the information you have requested would require in excess of 18 hours staff time to locate and retrieve the information. Therefore we are unable to comply with this element of your request. You may wish to consider narrowing the scope of this element of your request by selecting a particular time frame or by requesting the purpose of a selection of the grants included only. You should also be aware that the purpose of some grants may be considered commercially sensitive and would only be disclosed if it was judged to be in the public interest to do so.