

13th May 2010

Our ref : R00215

Freedom of Information Request – Funding for Skills Initiatives

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request dated 6/5/2010. Your request to SEEDA is:

Could I please have the amount of funding given to the following initiatives in 2008/09 and 2009/10:

- (a) Regional Skills Partnerships*
- (b) Employment and Skills Boards*

Information requested

(a) Regional Skills Partnerships (RSPAs) were set up in 05/06 to:

- Advise and influence Government by identifying barriers to enhanced skills delivery and improving productivity and offering solutions to overcome them;
- Provide a structure to enable partners to jointly plan against shared objectives that achieve closer alignment of the supply and demand for skills and drive-up demand for skills to improve productivity;
- Maximise the contribution that publicly funded skills provision, workforce development, business improvement and labour market services support can make to the productivity and profitability of businesses.

SEEDA provided funding to cover the employment of RSPA Managers, a dedicated post to work with Young People and the costs of the RSPA Secretariat. The majority of funding ceased in 2007/08. The only funding provided in the periods in question is £59,116 in 2008/09 for the post working with Young People. No SEEDA funding was given to RSPAs in 2009/10.

(b) Employment and Skills Boards (ESBs) were set up in 08/09 to:

- Work with existing skills partners/organisations to simplify the range of existing structures and partnerships and where an existing group exists consider how this can be developed;
- Interpret national, regional and local employment and skills policies and keep employers updated about how they impact on their business;
- Gather labour market/employer intelligence to help shape future skills priorities to ensure that actions support the collaboration and integration of skills and employment initiatives amongst key partner agencies.

SEEDA contributed to the employment costs of six ESB Managers by providing £300,000 funding in 08/09 and £150,000 in 09/10. SEEDA will not be providing any further funding towards ESBs.