

20/05/10

Our ref: R00217

Freedom of Information Request – RDPE Application 291

Introduction

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request, dated 06/05/2010. :

Information requested

1. *The number of applications received by SEEDA in June 2009*

A total of 10 Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) applications were received in June 2009.

2. *The total value of these applications when added together*

The total grant request of the 10 applications was £3,089,783.40.

3. *The total money handed out by way of grant, by SEEDA, in respect of those applications received in June 2009*

In respect of the applications received in June 2009, SEEDA awarded a total of £2,569,913.21 in grants.

4. *The percentage of successful applications submitted in June 2009*

80% of the applications received in June 2009 were successful.

5. *The Defendant's Solicitors are arguing that if a SEEDA applicant can obtain a loan for project expenditure it will not be permitted (under SEEDA's rules) to obtain a grant. Can you please confirm whether this is correct?*

Under RDPE rules, successful applicants must demonstrate that they have the ability to finance the entire project as grant claims are only paid on evidence of defrayment of invoices. In most circumstances applicants secure a bank loan or private funding (or a mix of both) for the whole project amount and then use the grant payments to repay some of the loan. However, the actual amount of grant award is determined by the Regional Appraisal Panel based on a thorough financial appraisal. The applicant's need for public funds is one of the main issues which is addressed during the appraisal process. Any successful applicant will only be awarded the minimum level of funding necessary to ensure the project can go ahead.



- 6. Can you finally please confirm on what day (and if sent electronically what time) SEEDA received our client's completed submission document in (we believe) June 2009.**

SEEDA do not consider to have received a completed application until all requested documents are received and ready for processing. SEEDA has never received a completed application from your client however an incomplete version was received from your client's agent on behalf of your client on 24th June 2009. Your client was contacted on 6th August 2009 to discuss the application at which point we were instructed to direct any further communication to your client only.