

11 June 2010

Your ref: Email dated 25/05/10
Our ref: R00223

Freedom of Information Request – Trade Unions

Introduction

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request, dated 25th May 2010

Your request to SEEDA is:

I am writing to obtain information about the total amount of money paid to trade unions by South East England Development Agency and the amount of staff time spent on union activities by South East England Development Agency employees.

1. *The total amount of money paid to all trade unions for financial periods 2008-09 and 2009-10. Where possible this should be broken down by the individual payments to each trade union by name, however if this disaggregated information is not available please continue to provide a total figure for union payments.*
2. *The amount of paid staff time, in terms of full-time equivalent staff numbers (FTE), spent working on behalf of a trade union – this is sometimes called ‘Trade Union facility time’ - in the financial periods 2008-09 and 2009-10. Where possible this should be broken down by each trade union by name, however if this disaggregated information is not available please continue to provide a total figure for staff time.*

Information requested

1) SEEDA has made no payments to any trade unions in relation to their general activities. However SEEDA has made payments to two trade unions in their role as delivery partners for discrete projects benefiting the South East’s economy and workforce.

| | 2008/09 Financial Year | 2009/10 Financial Year |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| Trades Union Congress (TUC) | £37,500 | - |
| South East Region Trades Union Congress (SERTUC) | £14,253 | £53,352 |

2) The only recognised trade union at SEEDA is the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) and, in the period in question, three staff members undertook trade union duties as part of their roles on the Branch Executive Committee. There is no formal facilities time agreement in place at SEEDA; however union representatives are

permitted paid time off during working hours to carry out duties that are concerned with the collective bargaining and representation of union members. As the hours spent undertaking trade union related activities were not recorded, we do not hold this information and are therefore unable to supply the information you request.

Disclosure Log

This information will also be made available on SEEDA's Freedom of Information Disclosure Log on the SEEDA website:

http://www.seeda.org.uk/About_SEEDA/Freedom_of_Information_disclosure_log/

Personal details and other information that could identify requesters are redacted (removed) from the disclosure log version.

Conclusion

If you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request, or if you are unhappy with our response, you can appeal using our Complaints Procedure as follows:

A request for a review should be addressed to Oona Muirhead, Group Executive Director: Strategy & Resources, and sent by email to: oonamuirhead@seeda.co.uk or by post to SEEDA, Cross Lanes, Guildford, GU1 1YA. You will be notified of the outcome within 20 working days.

If you are still dissatisfied after pursuing our Complaints Procedure, then under Section 50 of the Act, you are entitled to appeal to the Information Commissioner (Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, telephone: 01625 545700, fax: 01625 524510

Please contact me if you have any other queries.