

17 September 2010

Our ref: R244

RE: Freedom of Information request – Payments to Environmental Groups

Introduction

Thank you for your request dated 24th August 2010 made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request is:

- 1) *The total amount paid to charities, advocacy groups and think-tanks aiming to improve the protection of the natural environment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit climate change or otherwise address environmental issues in the financial year 2009-10. This should include, but is not limited to, all of the groups listed in the Appendix to this request.*
- 2) *A breakdown of the amount given in answer to question 1) by recipient organisation.*

Information requested

SEEDA's finance system does not record information on the type of organisation receiving funding and therefore we are unable to provide full and comprehensive details of all payments to environmental groups without incurring costs in excess of the appropriate limit as set out in Schedule 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Therefore we have provided details of funding provided to the organisations you have listed in the Appendix to your request and also provided details of funding to other organisations that we have identified as being 'environmental groups' based on key word search. Please note that in line with the definition you have provided we have excluded payments to non-departmental public bodies with an environmental remit, such as the Environment Agency.

1) SEEDA can disclose that the total amount paid to environmental groups in the financial year 2009/10 is £220,909.

2) The breakdown of payments to identified environmental groups in the 2009/10 financial year is as follows:

• Carbon Capture & Storage Association	£1,110
• Forum for the Future	£28,750
• Groundwork UK	£72,500
• Groundwork Kent & Medway	£10,712
• Groundwork Solent	£16,121
• Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	£26,466
• Surrey Wildlife Trust	£5,250
• The Greening Campaign	£60,000



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All payments were related to specific tasks carried out by these environmental groups under approved projects and subject to contractual control mechanisms ensuring value for money.