

Freedom of Information Request – SEEDA contact with specific companies

Introduction

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 17th January 2011 and made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request is:

- 1. Please confirm the amount (if any) paid under any grants, consultancies or contracts by your agency to the organisations listed below in the following financial years: 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 (part).*
- 2. Please confirm the subject matter of any grants, consultancies or contracts.*
- 3. Please confirm the extent of any links during 2010 between your agency and representatives of this group and provide copy notes of any meetings.*

Organisations:

- *The African Women's Empowerment Forum*
- *Agents for Change*
- *British Muslims for Secular Democracy (registered charity no: 1122730)*
- *The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (registered charity no: 1089503)*
- *Civic Voice (registered charity no: 1134476)*
- *Community Development South East*
- *Communities Inc*
- *Community Links (registered charity no: 10185117)*
- *The Co-Operative College (registered charity no: 1060008)*
- *The Democracy Trust*
- *The Fawcett Society (registered charity no: 1108769)*
- *The Institute of Leadership & Community Management (registered charity no: 248226)*
- *Involve (registered charity no: 1130568)*
- *The National Coalition for Independent Action*
- *The New Economics Foundation (registered charity no: 1055254)*
- *The North West Community Activist Network*
- *Novas Scarman Group Limited, an industrial and provident society (registered no: IP28680R)*
- *The Sheila McKechnie Foundation (registered charity no: 1108210)*
- *TPAS Limited*
- *The World Development Movement Limited and the World Development Movement Trust (registered charity no: 1064066)*

Information requested

In response to your request for information SEEDA has reviewed our records and that of key delivery bodies, such as Finance South East. Our responses to your individual questions are provided below.

1. I can confirm that we have found no records of any grants, consultancy contracts or other contracts for services having been directly awarded to these organisations during the period in question. However the East Midlands Development Agency (emda) commissioned the New Economics Foundation, on behalf of a number of organisations, to produce an Index of Sustainable Economic Wellbeing (ISEW) – details of this project are provided below. In relation to this project SEEDA provided financial contributions as follows:

Recipient	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
emda	£8,881	£3,791	£3,791

We also understand that during 2010 another of these organisations accessed the regional Business Link service, which is funded by SEEDA and delivered by Serco. This was Involve, who were provided with information on available business support services via the subscription they have in place with the Business Link service.

2. As described above, SEEDA provided emda with a contribution towards the costs of producing an Index of Sustainable Economic Wellbeing (ISEW). This is a three-year study which aims to produce an alternative measurement of economic growth to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita. Well-being is a much broader term; which includes physical and mental health, security, environmental quality and social cohesion. The ISEW project developed a tool that could be used to assess progress made towards an improved quality of life and sustainable economic development. ISEW was used in developing the Regional Economic Strategy Review: Evidence Base and was adopted as an additional measure of progress towards sustainable prosperity targets in the 2006 -16 Regional Economic Strategy. Other organisations that contributed to this project are as follows: North West Development Agency, South West Development Agency, Yorkshire Forward, West Midlands Regional Observatory and Natural England.
2. In terms of contacts between SEEDA and representatives of the organisations listed above, it is not possible to confirm with 100% certainty that there have been no contacts between any member of SEEDA and any representatives of the organisations in question. However we have reviewed the information available to us and contacted all our client-facing staff members to determine if they have any available records or knowledge of having any direct contact with the organisations in question during 2010. I can confirm that we have found no records of significant direct links with these organisations or details of any meetings at which they may have been attendees.