

16 February 2011

Our Ref: R263

Freedom of Information Request – SEEDA contact with specific companies

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:

- *DRS Data Services Ltd, its parent company DRS Data & Research Services plc and any associated company or joint venture.*
- *The Electoral Reform Society Limited (and its subsidiaries and associated companies Electoral Reform Services Ltd, Electoral Reform International Services Ltd, Membership Engagement Services Ltd and Xpress Solutions Ltd).*

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 awarded by SEEDA to these organisations during the period in question. However, we understand that during 2010 one of these organisations accessed the regional Business Link service, which is funded by SEEDA and delivered by Serco. This was DRS Data Services which during 2010 received intensive assistance under the regional Business Link service. This support was aimed at helping the company develop the skills of its workforce.

We do not hold any information in regards to joint ventures of DRS Data Services Ltd or associated companies and are therefore unable to check for any contracts which may have been awarded to these organisations. If you are able to provide us with the names of any joint ventures of DRS Data Services Ltd or associated companies which may be known to you, we will review our records and provide you with a further response.

2. Not applicable – please see above.
3. 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.