

02 September 2010

Our ref: R241

RE: Freedom of Information request – SEEDA Offices

Introduction

Thank you for your request dated 6th August 2010 made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request is:

1. *How many offices does the South East Regional Development Agency have?*
2. *Where are these offices situated?*
3. *How much has been spent on rent for premises for the agency for each of the last five years?*

Information requested

SEEDA is based in one of three leased offices. The location of these and the rental costs for each of the last five complete financial years are provided in the table below.

Location	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Guildford	£1,138,082	£1,149,573	£1,155,804	£1,151,437	£1,137,125
Chatham	£228,012	£230,549	£267,915	£266,490	£207,360
Brussels	£92,820	£98,582	£82,637	£29,754	£32,151

Please note that the reduction in rental costs for the Chatham office in the 2009-2010 financial year is due to SEEDA reducing the amount of office space leased within the building from two floors down to one.

All Regional Development Agencies have some form of representation in Brussels. This assists SEEDA in securing significant investment from a range of European funding streams, influencing legislation in order to create a competitive business environment, identifying economic opportunities for the region, and building key relationships to support these actions.

SEEDA also has representation in key Foreign Direct Investment source markets of particular interest to the South East; including North America, China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, France and Germany. SEEDA does not directly lease premises in the countries and there are separate contracts in place for this

representation which include staff costs, office costs and other overheads. SEEDA does not hold details of the specific rental costs of the premises utilised in these countries and to determine this would incur costs above the appropriate limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Disclosure Log

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

http://www.seeda.co.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/foi_disclosure_log

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