

## **Freedom of Information request – Loans to Sussex Based Companies**

Thank you for your request for information dated 9th September 2011 and made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For ease of reference, our responses to your individual questions are given below:

*Please can you list for me the number of loans given out to Sussex-based companies in a) 2008, b) 2009, c) 2010 and d) 2011?*

*In this list can you include the name of the company receiving the loan, where they are based, what they were given the loan for and when, how much the loan was, how much of the loan has been repaid and does the company still operate or is it bankrupt?*

In the South East region business loan funds have been administered by Finance South East on our behalf. As you may be aware, SEEDA transferred its legal interests in its regional loan funds to the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011, with future oversight to be delegated to Capital for Enterprise Limited.

Please see the spreadsheet provided at Annex 1 for details of loans granted to Sussex based companies in the years in question. The list includes loans provided from the transition loan fund established by SEEDA to help businesses in the South East survive the credit crunch, and loans provided for early stage finance or risk capital. All but two companies are still trading. Further information relating to registered companies that have received SEEDA funded loans is publicly available via the Companies House website: <http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/>

*Since the beginning of 2008, what percentage of loans given out to Sussex-based companies have been recouped and how much does the agency expect to recoup before its closure?*

Strict criteria have been applied in awarding the loans and each loan application goes through a robust credit committee process before an award is made, often with certain conditions attached. However, the very nature of early stage finance means that not all ventures succeed and therefore not all loans will be repaid.

Since the beginning of 2008 Finance South East has awarded £1,129,097 of loans to Sussex based businesses. The total repayment amount for these loans will be £1,1683,289 and the repayment period for SEEDA funded loans is between 3 - 7 years. Since 2008, which is the year from which loans made through SEEDA funding commenced; 6.29% of loans to Sussex-based companies have been repaid to date. The Agency expects to receive a further £36,000 from Sussex-based companies during the period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, which will mean that 8.43% of the total value of loans made to Sussex based businesses will have been recouped by that date. The remainder of the funds are scheduled to be repaid during the period to 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2018.

Please note that this response has not included information on investments made through the venture capital fund that SEEDA funds, as the support available through this fund – which is also administered by a fund manager at Finance South East - is given by an equity investment in the company, rather than a repayable loan.

