

RE: Freedom of Information request – SEEDA's Suppliers

Thank you for your request dated 14th October 2011 and made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your original request is as follows:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would kindly ask you to advise me if any of the people or businesses listed below provide (1) services to your organisation and (2) what they were paid in 2009, 2010 and 2011:

- *David Andrew Begg*
- *Claire Louise Haigh*
- *Adam Eliot Raphael*
- *Nigel Harris*
- *Portobello Partnership Ltd (or not Ltd)*
- *Campaign For High Speed Rail Ltd (or not Ltd)*
- *Greener Journeys*

SEEDA has reviewed our records to identify any payments for services made by SEEDA to the organisations and individuals listed above, during the financial years in question.

I can confirm that SEEDA paid Portobello Partnership Ltd £346.63 (£295.00 + 17.5% VAT) on the 25th March 2009. This payment related to a SEEDA staff member's attendance of a conference titled *Action on Climate Change: A Role for Transport* on the 5th June 2008.

We have not identified any other payments having been made to the organisations or individuals listed above for services provided to SEEDA. It is possible that these organisations or individuals have provided unpaid services to SEEDA (for example speaking at a SEEDA supported event) or that the individuals listed have provided services to SEEDA whilst employed by a specific organisation with whom SEEDA had a contract. However it is unlikely that SEEDA would hold this information, as there is no legislative requirement for us to do so, nor any value to SEEDA in listing employees of all organisations from which we have procured services. We would certainly be unable to confirm whether we held this information without reviewing a very substantial number of records. We have estimated that the time taken to identify whether we held the information you have requested would far exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours, as described in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. As you may be aware, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a Freedom of Information Act request if it estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. Finally, SEEDA has already transferred data and records to other organisations to which we have transferred particular economic development functions as part of the closure of the Agency, so we no longer hold a full set of records across all past activities.