

8 December 2009

John Robertson

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Dear John

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) – F2009/3530

Thank you for your request which was received on 18 November 2009.

Under section 1(1) of the FOIA you are usually entitled to be told whether we hold any information that falls within the scope of your request and, if we do, to have that information provided to you except where it is covered by an exemption.

A copy of your request and our response are provided below.

“What is the HEFC grant to for Creative Connexions?

What is Creative Connexions total budget?

What budget headings have they provided to justify it and their other government funding?

What safeguards prevent money intended to promote export of design skills being used in fact to promote out-sourcing of production from the UK and democratic countries to autocratic countries and China?”

The Creative Connexions project (originally called “Creative Capital-World City”) received £5 million of funding from HEFCE via the third round of the Higher Education Innovation Fund bidding process (“HEIF 3”). This funding was allocated to the University of Arts London, which was the lead higher education institution in the project bid. This represented just under 80% of the total project budget which was £6.275 million.

More information about the HEIF is available on our website via the following link:
<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/econsoc/buscom/heif/heif.asp>

Submitted documentation relating to the project is available via the following link:
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.berr.gov.uk/science/knowledge-transfer/heif/page33805.html>

The table below outlines the budget headings from the original project bid:

Creative London - World City Project

Costings

	Year 1 Cost £000s	Year 2 Cost £000s	Total Project Costs £000s
Project Management Centre	478	480	958
Funded Partners	745	756	1501
Creative Business Centres	550	753	1303
Creative Industry Observatory	615	575	1190
Technology and Facilities	440	133	573
Project Evaluation	25	25	50
Travel and Subsistence	150	150	300
Contingency	200	200	400
Totals	3203	3072	6275

The Financial Memorandum between HEFCE and higher education institutions (University of Arts London in this case as the lead institution) sets out the terms and conditions for HEFCE grants and the accountability framework for public funding. This document is available via the following link:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2008/08_19/#exec

A search of our records has found that no information is held which refers specifically to:

"What safeguards prevent money intended to promote export of design skills being used in fact to promote out-sourcing of production from the UK and democratic countries to autocratic countries and China"

Copyright and appeals

The following section explains our standard approach to copyright and provides details of our appeals process should you feel dissatisfied with our response.

Some of the information that we provide in response to requests under the Freedom of Information Act will be subject to copyright protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by HEFCE. The copyright in other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated in the information itself.

You may use any information supplied for your own use, including for non-commercial research purposes. The information may also be used for the purposes of news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example, by publishing the information or issuing copies to the public will require the permission of the copyright holder.

Please note that it is your responsibility to determine whether there are any obligations of confidentiality or other legal obligations which restrict your ability to make onward disclosure of this material.

If you are dissatisfied with our response or feel that the exemptions have been wrongly applied you may refer your concerns to our Internal Appeals Panel. Your appeal should be received within two calendar months of our final response to you, after which time your request for information will be closed.

Should you wish to appeal, please write to:

Freedom of Information Officer
HEFCE
Northavon House
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1QD

Please state the reasons for your appeal. The Freedom of Information Officer will contact you to advise you of the outcome. Further details of the internal appeal process are available on our website. A printed copy is available on request.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of your appeal to HEFCE

Under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner about an authority's compliance with the requirements of the Act in respect of a request for information that you have made. The Information Commissioner is likely to contact you to ask you to use the organisation's internal complaints procedure (we have called this our Appeals Process) before investigating your complaint further. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 700

Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk (please note that this email may not be secure)

Please note that the Information Commissioner does, from time to time, impose time limits on the submission of complaints to its offices and therefore we would encourage you to ensure that any complaint you are considering making reaches them in good time.

You can find out more about the Freedom of Information Act and how it affects you from the Information Commissioner's website:

<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely



James Button