

FOI Release

Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Funding for Ben Ainslie Racing

Date of release: 29 April 2015

Information request

Please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-approves-75-million-for-sir-ben-ainslie-project-to-boost-portsmouth>.

I wish to understand the terms under which this funding was provided and in particular whether the funds were required to be spent on development of the HQ building in Portsmouth or whether it was general purpose funding to Ben Ainslie Racing to be spent at their discretion.

Information released

In response to your question above:

The Government has provided £7.5 million of government funding to support Sir Ben Ainslie's America's Cup team and their proposal to be based on the Camber in Portsmouth.

This is broken down into £6.5 million capital funding and £1 million revenue funding. We can confirm that Ben Ainslie Racing (BAR) have received a grant from government of £6.5 million capital and due diligence is taking place on the £1 million revenue.

The £6.5 million grant is subject to agreement by BAR to output targets as part of the funding agreement and to ensure good value for money. These are outlined below:

I. Job generation:

- a. 113 direct jobs plus 5 direct consultants in campaign first America's Cup cycle.
2 direct construction jobs.

- b. 14 Apprenticeships – for first 2 years of operations
- c. 20 Training programmes first America's Cup cycle
- d. 20 Interns first America's Cup cycle
- e. 91 Work placements first America's Cup cycle

II. Up skilling of local workers:

- a. Target to employ half the BAR staff from the Solent area throughout the first campaign, rising to 60% in the second campaign
- b. Set-up an Applied Technology Dept by 2017 to take the innovations developed by BAR into the Marine industry
- c. BAR will engage with the National Composite Centres and work to develop excellence in the marine sphere

III. Engagement with schools and Higher Education Institutions:

- a. BAR will actively work with Portsmouth University, Southampton Solent University and the Isle of Wight College across design, innovation, marketing and sustainability projects. For example a design collaboration to design an innovative aerodynamic helmet
- b. Programme for Marketing/Communications Interns to do 9 month placements
- c. 1 x Art projects with primary, secondary and university in the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight region per America's Cup cycle
- d. Develop an apprentice scheme and support the BMF's (British Marine Federation) programme to further develop it across other marine companies in the region
- e. Development of work experience/intern and apprenticeships across all departments
- f. 35% of the Solent Region schools to attend the Visitors Centre Educational programme by end of 2017

g. Minimum of one national educational design-led competition per America's Cup cycle

h. Collaboration with RYA (Royal Yachting Association) to engage a wider demographic in the sport of sailing through the charity set up – 100 young people per annum to benefit from the programme

i. Engage with Highbury College, Southampton City College, Isle of Wight College for apprentice schemes

IV. Engagement with the local supply chain:

a. BAR will support the development of a marine centre of excellence in the Solent Region. Annual technical marine seminars will be hosted at the BAR HQ in Portsmouth

b. Specialist procurement expertise in house to manage local procurement – annual supply chain open day at team base. Local suppliers are given high priority, so long as there is no performance disadvantage and can meet the sustainability code set by BAR and produce an audit methodology to support the sustainability goals of the team

c. Opportunity to take graduates from 2 other companies per term to increase knowledge

d. 50 local businesses per annum to attend specialist seminars at the team base

V. Visitors to the BAR centre:

a. Deliver a minimum of 4 annual open days where the public access the base – 300 visitors each day.

b. Engage with local schools and community groups and the HE/FE sector to host interactive and educational visits where we inspire children and young people about sport, the sport of sailing and the America's Cup – Y1 2500 increasing by 10% per annum

The grant will be monitored against the terms of the contract to ensure project delivery and to demonstrate success. BAR have agreed to track progress against agreed milestones and outcomes.

The £1 million revenue funding will be used to open up the sport of sailing to new participants. Contractual details will be confirmed following the successful completion of due diligence.

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