



NOTTINGHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

ICT (and leasing)

DFC FOR ICT LEASES

As from April 2006 capital funding for ICT has been included in schools' DFC instead of Standards Fund through Local Authorities. Some schools may have used funding under the previous arrangements to pay for leasing or rental contracts for ICT equipment or services. DFC **cannot** be used in this way – such expenditure is regarded as revenue and cannot be met from capital grant.

DFC can only fund ICT capital projects, subject to the usual £2000 de minimis rule. Any ICT payments below that threshold must be treated as revenue, as must all leases and other contracts. Any school with a particular problem should discuss the position with their LA.

DFC and Feasibility Studies:

Feasibility studies tend to fall into two categories:

1. work needed to prepare a bid for the DfE (e.g. Condition Improvement Fund)
2. to undertake a feasibility work which is not directly related to a capital bid, e.g. extended schools programme.
3. VA schools must continue to undertake the work in Category 1 at risk. Such expenditure is reclaimable in the case of successful projects. DFC or LCVAP **cannot** be used to fund the preparation of bids.

DFC or even LCVAP can be used for the second category of work. This is because it is not linked to a speculative bid process, but is part of work that should eventually become a capital project.

ICT, DFC AND LEASING

A recent enquiry asked if VA Schools can use their DFC to lease ICT equipment. This is to confirm you **CANNOT**. You can however, use other funds to lease equipment if you consider that leasing is better value.

SMARTWATER

Smartwater is a permanent property marking and identification solution that can be applied to ICT and other high value equipment. Each bottle of liquid contains a unique combination of chemicals (similar to DNA), meaning that marked stolen equipment and intruders contaminated with the liquid can be positively linked with a specific school. Feedback from users suggests that when combined with good site security, this is an effective deterrent resulting in a reduction in burglaries as intruders do not want to be positively linked with a crime scene and are less likely to be able to offload marked equipment. Smartwater is available from your local Crime Prevention Officer.