

GLA 35/8.2 External Communications Policy

17 October 2012

BOARD PAPER REFERENCE – GLA 35/8.2 – EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICYIssue

1. Providing clarity on the circumstances when the GLA releases information

Summary

2. The GLA aims to operate in an open and transparent manner
3. It will consider disclosure in the public interest where there is no legal barrier to doing so, or where it may adversely affect the proper conduct of its regulatory responsibilities
4. The External Communications Policy (Annex A) sets out the GLA's approach to a range of circumstances in which it may be asked for information, to provide clarity for its stakeholders, and will be published on its website

Background

5. There have been previous Board papers that cover various elements of external communications:

Paper	16/8.5	Releasing information to the press
	22/7.2	External communications strategy
	22/7.3	Publicising revocations without immediate effect

6. Together these papers provide the explanation of why the GLA engages with the media, to provide a preventative and deterrent effect to assist compliance and control, and to establish the situations in which the GLA normally considers a press release in respect of revocations. However, those papers did not provide a comprehensive single reference document that explains further situations in which release of information may occur.
7. This paper addresses those gaps. For example, it provides clarity on the following areas:
 - How the GLA handles Freedom of Information Act requests
 - Explains the GLA position on press releases in the case of refusals (although an approach the GLA would take it has never been explicitly and publicly stated)
 - Confidentiality in inspections and the situations in which GLA staff may necessarily request information from third parties which may result in limited but unavoidable disclosure (see inspections and appeal sections)

8. This paper therefore addresses issues raised through the labour provider liaison group, by providing the aforementioned single reference document.
9. This policy may be updated from time to time to include new issues, and further clarification on those currently included.