

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD BOARD MEETING OF THE GANGMASTERS LICENSING AUTHORITY – 17 JUNE 2009, HELD AT CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER

Present:

Paul Whitehouse	Chairman
Carl Creswell	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)
Chris McCann	BRC
David Camp	ALP
Geoffrey Theobald OBE	LACORS
Gillian Mills	SAGB
Graham Bruce	NFUS
Hannah Reed	TUC
Jeremy Cowper	Defra
Jane Mordue	NACAB
Rebecca Murphy	DWP
Marshall Evans	REC
Peter Toner	Dardni
Phil Hudson	NFU
Robin Wythes	HMRC
Samantha Peace	HSE
Sharon Cross	NFU
Simon Chesterman	ACPO

Observers:

Anne Fairweather	REC
Gerry Franks	Low Pay Commission
Judith Hicks	DWP
David Kisiaky	DWP

In Attendance:

Ian Livsey	Chief Executive
Ray Dawson	Deputy Chief Executive
Darryl Dixon	Director of Strategy
David Nix	Head of Policy and Communications
Almut Gadow	Policy Officer

1	Introductions	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebecca Murphy welcomed as the new DWP representative. The Board thanked JH for her contribution and time as the DWP representative.
2	Apologies	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Kaufman, Unite Jeremy Oppenheim, UKBA Joanne Young, ALP Neil Fleming, Scottish Government Nigel Jenney, FPC Russ Hardy, Police Superintendents Association Steve Kemp, GMB
3	Minutes of the last Board	<p>Note:</p>

	meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed
4	Declarations of interest	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB declared an interest in licensing of machinery rings as the managing director of a machinery ring • HR, CC and PW sit on the Fair Employment Enforcement Board (FEEB)
5	Declarations of urgent business	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machinery rings and GLA licensing
6.	Operations update	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of AAW Contract Service Ltd, the GLA has for the first time used the new process to publicise a revocation before it took effect.
7.1	GLA Board Liaison Groups	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed • Labour provider, labour user and worker representatives groups will continue to meet in the form of three separate liaison groups. • Representative Board members will select membership of the respective liaison group.
7.2	Pay and Work Rights Helpline	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed • The GLA fully supports the creation of the Pay and Work Rights Helpline (PWRH), and will reiterate this support to DEFRA and FEEB. The GLA is cooperating with the helpline, which will provide an additional source of information and intelligence for the GLA. • The GLA does not have a separate helpline for worker complaints. The GLA's 08456025020 number is a general public facing number, used by licence holders, other labour providers, labour users, media and the general public as well as by workers. • Unlike other organisations whose helplines are subsumed into the PWRH, the GLA operates a licensing scheme for which it will continue to need a contact telephone number. This could be either the existing 08456025020 number, or a new number. • The GLA does not have a budget to cover the costs associated with replacing and advertising a new telephone number. Some confusion might also be caused if a change in the GLA contact number was publicised at the same time as the PWRH campaign. • BIS recognises that the GLA will continue to need a number for media, licence holders and prospective licence holders to contact, while workers should now be directed to the PWRH. • The TUC supports the PWRH as a resource to which workers can be directed for help and support. TUC also recognises the need for the GLA to retain its own number for other operational purposes. Vulnerable workers' vulnerability often cuts across the remits of several government departments. PWRH's effectiveness in providing intelligence to the GLA should be reviewed in due course. • The GLA currently shares intelligence received with other government agencies where relevant. • The PWRH marketing campaign, due to commence in September, will include a strand targeting the GLA regulated sector

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GLA currently employs Polish and Russian speakers among its frontline staff. PWRH will use Language Line interpreters. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLA to report to next Board meeting on information passed from PWRH to GLA.
8.1	GLA Hampton Implementation Review Update	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report expected in early July. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLA to circulate final report to the Board as soon as it is available.
8.2	Supermarket Protocol Consultation Update	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two consultation responses received to date. Two consultation events have been arranged, through retailers and Wychavon District Council respectively. Feedback which supermarkets have previously received from their supply chains will also be taken into consideration.
8.3	GLA Annual Report and Accounts	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Risk Committee has reviewed the accounts and annual report and recommended sign-off subject to the resolution of one issue, after which they are due to be laid before Parliament on 16 July. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLA to circulate final accounts and annual report to Board.
8.4	Conduct Regulations Consultation	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted by the Board <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper to next Board meeting to set out the implications for GLA licensing standards, for decision whether a separate GLA consultation is necessary.
9.	Any Other Business	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following recent legal advice, the GLA has changed interpretation of licensing requirements for machinery rings. The GLA now considers that licensing applies to circumstances where a machinery ring puts individual members in touch with each other to supply labour. NFUS does not accept this interpretation. It has been agreed that this point of law will be tested in the case of Ringlink (Scotland) Ltd. JC confirmed that Defra's Central Approval Panel had now agreed funding for additional GLA enforcement officers. Subject to confirmation, the GLA is to receive an additional £700k for 2009/10, and £430k for 2010/11 in grant-in-aid. PW/IL thanked JC and Brian Harding for their efforts in securing this funding.
10.	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 October 2009, Nottingham, Venue TBC