

**MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH BOARD MEETING OF THE GANGMASTERS LICENSING AUTHORITY – 17 OCTOBER 2006 AT GREENMOUNT COLLEGE CAMPUS, ANTRIM, NORTHERN IRELAND,**

Present:

Paul Whitehouse (PW)	Chairman
Jane Betts	NACAB
David Camp	ALP
Nick Clark	TUC
Ian Davidson	SEERAD
Michael Dunn	NAWAD
Judith Hicks	DWP
Nigel Jenney	FPC
Chris Kaufman	TGWU
Anne King	HMRC
Robert Price	FPC
Dave Roberts	Home Office
David Small	DARDNI
Martin Smith	GMB
Bill Snell	USDAW
Geoffrey Theobald	LACORS
Graeme Walker	H&SE
Lisa Webb	NFUS
Geoff Webdale	Defra

Observing:

Belinda Brooke	REC (for Marcia Roberts)
Nick Kinsella	ACPO (for Graham Maxwell)
Simon Irwin	NAO
Rob Evans	DEFRA IA

In Attendance:

Mike Wilson (MW)	Chief Executive
Ray Dawson (RD)	Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Finance
Nicola Ray (NR)	Director of Policy and Communications

Agenda

1	Introduction	<b>Belinda Brooke was welcomed as representing REC and Nick Kinsella representing ACPO. Simon Irwin NAO and Rob Evans DEFRA Internal Audit were also welcomed as observers.</b>
2	Apologies	<b>Dan Rees - ETI Sharon Cross - NFU Jolanta Edwards - DTI Russell Hardy – Police Superintendents Assoc Philip Hudson - NFU</b>

		<b>Graham Maxwell – ACPO</b> <b>Chris McCann - BRC</b> <b>Colin MacDonald - SAGB</b> <b>Iain MacSween - SFIA</b>
3	Minutes of the last Board meeting	<b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agreed as a correct record</b></li> </ul>
4	Declarations of Interest	<b>None</b>
5	Declarations of urgent business	<b>None</b>
6	Update on project plan, key milestones and exclusions	<b>Note:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The high level milestone plan has been amended to reflect the last date for shellfish applications – 23 February 2007</b></li> <li>• <b>Now moving away from project phase as almost fully operational with launch of offence of being an unlicensed gangmaster on 1/10/06</b></li> <li>• <b>Recognized that forestry contractors have not come forward for licensing so working with trade associations to raise the profile of licensing</b></li> <li>• <b>Significant coverage in the media with launch of offence</b></li> <li>• <b>Tackling issue of overseas labour providers – seeking advice from DEFRA legal on EU position and licence comparability, written to Ambassadors in Accession states and paper later on the agenda</b></li> <li>• <b>Enforcement now live but low key until backlog of application inspections is cleared and have received authorization for CHIS</b></li> <li>• <b>Airwave system is now operational and have purchased case management system</b></li> <li>• <b>Will be looking to use media to highlight that enforcement action has been taken by either carrying out exercise with VOSA, revoking a licence or explaining how information is used</b></li> <li>• <b>Over 700 intelligence reports received – some intelligence passed to DEFRA relating to Agricultural Minimum Wage</b></li> <li>• <b>IT working well and development on track</b></li> <li>• <b>Small number of complaints received about the decision to allow businesses that had applied by 1 Sep 06, to continue to trade until their licence application had been considered</b></li> <li>• <b>GLA staff conference 7/11/06</b></li> <li>• <b>Key risks – success of regulation of shellfish gathering, lack of licensed labour providers in Northern Ireland despite intelligence to the contrary, the impact on the credibility of the GLA</b></li> </ul>

		<p>if abuse is still prevalent from overseas operators, and a possible shortfall in inspection resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defra budget cuts may also impact on the GLA and are a risk to the business if significant cuts are required</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ALC policy paper will be circulated to board members outside of the meeting</li> <li>Report for the Board on how intelligence is used to be circulated outside of meeting</li> <li>Working group to look at overseas labour provider issues to be set up to include: Belinda Brooke, David Camp, Anne King, Nick Clarke and Chris Kaufman – will consider legal definition</li> <li>Invitation to Board members to come to the GLA to view the licensing system</li> <li>Paper on risk based approach will be tabled in January</li> </ul>
7.1	Campaign for Racial Equality	<p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed position</li> </ul>
7.2	Treatment of labour Providers who use farmer to farmer loans	<p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GLA to write to NFUS to advise of position</li> </ul>
7.3	GLA Licence Fee Renewal	<p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed timetable is tight so will have to be dealt with outside meetings</li> <li>Agreed proposal</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public consultation document will be circulated to the Board</li> </ul>
8.1	Performance Report for the quarter ended 30/9/06	<p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RD is in discussion with NAO as may have to change the way that we account for income</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report to include numbers refused and those at pre-appeal stage</li> <li>Report to include quantities of comms products distributed rather than just what is available</li> <li>Communications targets to show in graphical format link to % targets</li> <li>Survey on radio campaign to be sent to Board</li> </ul>

8.2	Corporate Plan and Business Plan	<b>Note:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board can access from website</b></li> </ul>
8.3	HSE merger update	<b>Note:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HSC has agreed position on future of GLA</b></li> </ul> <b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GW to draft note for minutes</b></li> </ul>
8.4	Communications – Worker Strategy	<b>Note:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted by the Board</b></li> </ul>
8.5	Dates for Board meetings for 2007	<b>Note:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted by Board</b></li> </ul>
8.6	Policy for removal of Additional Licensing Conditions from licenses	<b>Note:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ALC policy paper will be circulated to board members outside of the meeting</b></li> </ul>
8.7	Overseas labour providers	<b>Note:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted by Board</b></li> </ul>
8.8	Update from Chair of the Audit Committee	<b>Note:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted by Board</b></li> </ul>
9	Urgent business	<b>None</b>
10	Date of next meeting	<b>18 January 2007, Nottingham.</b>