



Gangmasters &
Labour Abuse Authority

GLAA54/17a GLAA Board Teleconferences

19 July 2017

Board Paper Reference – GLAA54/17a- GLAA Board Teleconferences

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is for the Board to consider the future role and governance of GLAA Board monthly teleconferences

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The GLAA Board teleconferences which take place on months when there is no Board meeting should continue. Their focus should continue to be on information sharing. Agreed actions from the teleconference should be captured in writing and circulated.
- 2.2 Where a Board decision is required, the teleconference may be constituted as a Board meeting. Discussion would be minuted, with the minutes published. The normal GLAA Board meeting rules would apply (e.g notice, publication of papers to be approved, quoracy) .
- 2.3 Board procedures should be updated to reflect these changes.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The timing of when GLAA Board decisions are required does not always match the cycle of quarterly Board meetings. The Executive requires a more flexible Board decision making process
- 3.2 Monthly Board teleconferences which were instituted for information sharing purposes, provide an opportunity for the Board to constitute itself as a decision making forum.
- 3.3 As an Arms Length Body, GLAA is expected to operate transparently. Where teleconferences are used as board decision making meetings, in the interests of transparency, the papers being considered should be published in the same way as Board papers and minutes of the discussion published in the same way as board minutes are published.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 The pace of change in the GLAA world is such that only having quarterly Board decision making meetings is not frequent enough.
- 4.2 Also it is not unusual for the decision making processes around GLAA to be delayed. Recent examples have been the delay in 2016/17 to the approval of the GLA budget. In 2017/18 there has been delay in the publication of the strategy from the Director of LME. This can throw the GLAA timetable out of time.

- 4.3 A programme of Board teleconferences has been established to enhance communication with the GLAA Board. Dates for these are set well in advance to promote attendance from as many Board members as possible. Using these dates for the wider purpose of seeking Board approvals would provide an efficient use of time.
- 4.4 Board members would be given as much notice as possible (and no less than x days) that a teleconference was going to be asked to give its approval to an Executive proposal or GLAA strategic document such as the Business Plan or the Communications strategy.
- 4.4 It is not proposed that these teleconferences should be open to observers in the way that Board meetings are open meetings. But the decision making teleconferences would be minuted and the minutes published. Papers would be published in the same way as quarterly Board meeting papers are published – subject to the usual privacy and security arrangements.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 There will be a modest additional administrative overhead associated with this recommendation.

6. Organisational Risks

- 6.1 The Board might be accused of seeking to take decisions in ways that by-pass the open quarterly Board meetings. One option would be to ensure that, at the Board meeting subsequent to the teleconference, any such decisions were reported.

7. Policy Implications and Links to Strategic Priorities

- 7.1 None

8. Details of Consultation/EQIA

- 8.1 N/A

9. Background Papers and Relevant Published Documents

- 9.1

Report Author:

Senior Responsible Officer: