



Gangmasters
Licensing Authority

GLA46/10 Licensing Standards Review

15 July 2015

Board Paper Reference – GLA46/10 - Licensing Standards Review

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the Board on the review of the GLA Licensing Standards.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board agrees to defer the commencement of a review of the GLA Licensing Standards but that this decision is actively reviewed

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 In accordance with best practice the GLA has committed to reviewing its Licensing Standards every three years. This was completed in 2009 and 2012 to ensure that the standards by which licence holders are assessed is relevant, current and meets other requirements including seeking to ease the burden on the compliant. A further review would therefore normally be instigated in 2015. In the normal course of events this would be the case.
- 3.2 GLA/Home Office deliberated instigating this review in early 2015 however events including the appointment of a new Board, the General Election and the assent of the Modern Slavery Act made the practicalities difficult and may well have diluted the impact and value of the public consultation that accompanies the review.
- 3.3 The Home Office is soon to embark on a public consultation relating to the remit and powers of the new labour market enforcement agency, which will incorporate a review of the role of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, as stated in Section 55 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, hence carrying out an isolated review of the licensing standards at this time would not be the most effective course of action and may well convey conflicting and confusing messages.
- 3.4 It is therefore recommended that the review of the licensing standards is deferred until greater clarity is established as to the progression of the single labour market enforcement agency. This decision should be kept under active review.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 A review of the GLA Licensing Standards should be deferred so as not to conflict with public consultation on the labour market enforcement agency.
- 4.2 Legal advice has been sought and the risk of deferring does not place an undue risk on the GLA or the workers it seeks to protect but would ensure a clear landscape to allow key stakeholders and the public to engage in meaningful consultation about the labour market enforcement agency without the distraction or duplication of a public consultation on the Licensing Standards.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

5.1 N/A.

6. Organisational Risks

6.1 There is a risk that the Licensing Standards may need to be reviewed a second time if a decision isn't made to delay the review during the Home Office consultation period.

7. Policy Implications and Links to Strategic Priorities

7.1 There are no policy implications and the Licensing Standards are intrinsic to the aim, strategic priorities and corporate objectives of the GLA specifically; strategic objective – Maintain a credible licensing scheme.

8. Details of Consultation/EQIA

8.1 Not applicable at this time.

9. Background Papers and Relevant Published Documents

9.1 GLA45/12 Licensing Standards Review - April 2015.

GLA 42/13 Review of the Licensing Standards - July 2014

Strategy for Preventing and Vulnerable and Exploited Workers 2014 - 2017.

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