



Gangmasters
Licensing Authority

GLA41/19 TV Documentaries

02 April 2014

Board Paper Reference – GLA41/19 – TV Documentaries

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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This paper is intended to inform the board about the GLA's recent and ongoing activity working with TV production companies. The paper will also outline the principles that will be applied in all cases to ensure media engagement and subsequent broadcast is proportionate, justified, in the public interests and takes full cognisance of commercial sensitivities.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To be noted by members.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To keep members informed of how prospective requests to participate in TV programmes are and will be handled by the GLA.

4. Summary of Key Points - Principles

- 4.1 The GLA is regularly approached by TV production companies asking for permission to document its activities, particularly operations that involve forced entry and arrests.
- 4.2 Requests are considered on a case by case basis. Companies requesting access are researched to check on their suitability for collaboration and previous portfolios of programmes. They are also asked to provide background information, outlining what they intend their finished project to show with specific reference to the aspects of the work of the GLA they will include.
- 4.3 The GLA will carry out a 'risk assessment' as to the potential exposure to reputational damage respective projects might cause, weighed against the protection of vulnerable workers, public information, positive messaging and wider public understanding of what the GLA does and why.
- 4.3 Other factors considered include: the amount of staff time and resources required to facilitate the requirements of the production teams and whether partner agencies have also agreed to participate in a specific project. This will be continuously assessed to ensure that the duty of care to workers always takes primacy.
- 4.4 All partner agencies involved in any activity to be filmed must be contacted and be in agreement with any request for filming to enable it to take place. Requests from production teams that already have partner agencies signed up to assist will be viewed more favourably but each one on its merits and the overarching aim of the GLA.

4.5 In considering all requests the welfare and safety of the workers is paramount. No projects or filming will be agreed or permitted by the GLA if vulnerable and exploited people are placed in a position of risk.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

5.1 None

6. Organisational Risks

6.1 There are no organisational risks from ongoing partnerships. Potential reputational risk is managed through only selecting filming opportunities with positive predicted outcomes.

7. Policy Implications and Links to Strategic Priorities

7.1 Any agreed partnership will seek to raise awareness of the work of the GLA through promoting positive aspects of its work – showing officers protecting vulnerable people and tackling unlicensed and criminal activity. There is a clear link to professional media reporting and the increase in confidence of a public authority.

8. Details of Consultation/EQIA

8.1 None.

9. Background Papers and Relevant Published Documents

9.1 The document at Annex A shows details of a proposed programme that was submitted to the GLA by Arrow Media. The company had already signed agreements with various police forces, the National Crime Agency, Red Cross and the Salvation Army. The GLA has agreed to work with Arrow Media.

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SLAVE BRITAIN
Arrow International Media

SLAVE BRITAIN

Arrow International Media are working closely with the Serious Organised Crimes Agency to produce a graphic portrait of the forced labour industry currently operating in the United Kingdom.

THE DOCUMENTARY

To be broadcast on Channel 4, this one-hour documentary, or potentially even feature documentary, aims to raise awareness of the slavery and servitude trade.

We intend to achieve this through a combination of documenting present tense slavery police operations, interviewing NGOs and organisations tackling slavery, as well as re-visiting the shocking 2011 case, Operation Netwing.

This is not a current affairs documentary but a personal tale about people – from those who find themselves entrapped in slavery, to those who investigate it, tackle it, prevent it and help rehabilitate those who fall victim to the criminal industry.

We want to show the audience not just the devastating effects slavery can have on it's victims (along with the other horrific crimes the industry brings along with it), but also how hard organisations like SOCA, the Salvation Army and the police are working to prevent it.

Ultimately informing the audience how to recognise the signs of slavery, and what to do if they are confronted with it.

FILMING

SOCA and Bedfordshire police, who conducted Operation Netwing, have both agreed to fully co-operate with Arrow Media. But in order for us to produce a well-rounded, informative and accurate programme, we request your help and assistance.

Whether this is allowing us to work alongside your police force during a slavery related operation, helping us shed more light on Operation Netwing or even providing us with relevant contacts and research.

Both the Director, Assistant Producer and Arrow Media share a long history of producing difficult documentaries so we fully appreciate the legal and logistical complexities of working in a subject area as sensitive and legally complex as this. So for now, all we ask is that you allow us to discuss the project with you in further detail.

Victoria Musquin – Assistant Producer – victoria.musquin@arrowmedia.com

This programme has the potential to reach a large audience and we hope, with your help, make a real impact to the UK.

ARROW MEDIA

Arrow Media is an ambitious venture, creating high quality and innovative content across TV and film. The company was founded by John Smithson, Tom Brisley and Iain Pelling, the team that built Darlow Smithson Productions into one of the most respected and admired factual production companies in the world.

JOHN SMITHSON – Creative Director of Arrow Media and Executive Producer of Slave Britain

John has a multi-award winning track record across film and television. In 2011 he was an Oscar® nominee for Best Motion Picture of the Year for Danny Boyle's 127 HOURS, a film he originated and produced. He also produced TOUCHING THE VOID, which won the British Academy Award for Outstanding Film and 14 other awards and broke box-office records. He has worked as Originator and Executive Producer on hundreds of hours of iconic television – from long running series to scripted films - and is one of the most respected executives in global production.

LOUISE OSMOND – Director of Slave Britain

Louise has a reputation for making high end, challenging content. Her recent films include the extremely successful Channel 4 documentary RICHARD III: KING OF THE CAR PARK, Emmy winning BECKONING SILENCE, as well as KILLER IN A SMALL TOWN, THE JAMES BULGER STORY and the Grierson winning DEEP WATER. She is known internationally for her ability to work on sensitive subjects that are legally difficult.