

GLA36/9.1 Application and Inspection process consultation

17 January 2013

BOARD PAPER REFERENCE – GLA 36/9.1 – Application and Inspection process consultation

Issue

1. Non-statutory consultation on changes to the application, and related licensing procedures (see consultation paper – GLA 36/9.1 Annex A)

Recommendations

2. The attached consultation paper is issued on 21 January 2013
3. The consultation will run for 8 weeks until 15 March 2013
4. The consultation questions summarised in section 6 provide sufficient coverage to assist the development of proposals for change in line with the RTC WMs

Background

5. The written Ministerial statement (WMS) on the conclusion from the red tape challenge (RTC) in relation to the GLA, identified the following areas for change:
 - Reduce the burden on compliant labour providers and labour users and focus forensically on gross abuse of workers by unscrupulous gangmasters - whose crimes include tax evasion, trafficking, health and safety negligence and other serious crimes;
 - Streamline the process for issuing licences and remove the general requirement for an application inspection and associated fee, aim to reduce fees and charges and extend the licensing period from twelve months to two years or more for highly compliant businesses;
6. In setting out its proposals for change the GLA's consultation paper is divided into four main areas for change:
 - The application and inspection process
 - "earned recognition" - the portfolio of evidence

Both of which focus on changes to the application process, and alternative methods of providing assurance of compliance by new applicants, and sections on:

- The GLA renewal process
- Active checks and the public register

Which identify other areas where burdens on business may be reduced but also increasing the responsibility of the licence holder to be compliant and increasing openness in respect of a licence holder's licence status.

7. At the conclusion of the consultation exercise the GLA will produce a response to the consultation, summarising the responses received, and setting out its conclusions and proposals for changes in process. These will be presented to the April GLA Board in the first instance.
8. The Board are requested to provide any substantive comments on the scope of the consultation questions by noon on **18 January 2013**
9. Please note, in providing comments Board members should restrict such comments to the wording and scope of the consultation questions, and not seek to answer them. It is anticipated that Board members will wish to individually respond to the consultation once the consultation is formally launched.
10. The GLA will also produce a press release to accompany the launch of the consultation process.
11. A further consultation by Defra on the necessary legislative changes required will be issued shortly.
12. The GLA and Defra will be considering a joint consultation workshop before the end of the GLA's consultation.