

GLA 18/7.4

GLA Funding Arrangements

16 April 2008

BOARD PAPER REFERENCE – GLA 18/7.4 – GLA Funding Arrangements

Issue

1. To update the Board on discussions with Government over the future process for setting GLA licence fee levels.

Recommendation

2. The Board is invited to note the correspondence approving fee levels for 2008 – 09 and the HM Treasury request for further discussions.

Background

3. At the January meeting, the Board requested a paper which discussed possible alternatives arrangements for funding the Authority. Since the January meeting, HM Treasury have requested to meet with Defra and GLA officials to review the Authority's approach and business model to setting fee levels for 2009 – 10. A date for this meeting is to be confirmed.
4. The Authority considers it is appropriate to conclude discussions with HMT before further analysis of the GLA arrangements is presented to the Board. The Board will be notified of the outcome of these discussions.
5. For information, the following correspondence to Paul Whitehouse giving approval for the GLA fee levels for 2008 – 09 is attached. Also, attached is the letter from the Authority Chairman to the Secretary of State seeking approval for the fee levels:
 - Annex A: letter from Paul Whitehouse, GLA Chairman, to the Secretary of State
 - Annex B: letter from the Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Defra
 - Annex C: letter from Yvette Cooper, Chief Secretary to the Treasury
 - Annex D: letter from Michelle Geldernew, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland
 - Annex E: letter from Elin Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs Welsh Assembly Government