



<b>Ref: FOI 2018 - 18</b>	<b>Date issued: 17 May 2018</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Number of complaints made by workers within clothing industry to the GLAA over the past 10 years.	
<p><b>Question(s) asked:</b></p> <p>The Leicester Mercury (Martin, 2017) reported a meeting was to take place which included “top officials [to] look at ways of stamping out illegal and unethical practices in the clothing industry”. Considering GLAA’s involvement in this discussion I would like to kindly request data which shows the number of complaints made by workers within the clothing industry to the GLAA over the past 10 years.</p> <p><b>Our response</b></p> <p>The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority only acquired new powers under the Police and Crime Evidence Act 1984 last year which means we can now use these powers to investigate labour market offences, including modern slavery (relating to forced or compulsory labour) across the economy, including the textile sector. Whilst we have had very few specific complaints from workers in the UK apparel manufacturing industry, we are aware of the problems that exist in the UK and beyond.</p> <p>Below is the link to the report on our website which provides an updated assessment of the threats of labour exploitation. This will help to inform GLAA and partner agency decision making processes and focus resources on the areas at greatest risk both at strategic and operational level.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gla.gov.uk/media/3537/external-nature-and-scale-of-labour-exploitation-report-final-version-may-2018.pdf">http://www.gla.gov.uk/media/3537/external-nature-and-scale-of-labour-exploitation-report-final-version-may-2018.pdf</a></p>	