



FPC PRESS RELEASE

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FPC calls on GLA to develop stronger relationships to combat rogue businesses

The Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) is calling for the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) to develop stronger relationships across the fresh produce sector in order to combat rogue businesses and to get to know the industry at the grassroots.

FPC supports the recent Hampton Review's findings that the Authority is making good progress towards better regulation practices. The Hampton Implementation Review process report states that 'strong relationships with compliant businesses will be critical in ensuring the GLA receives the right level of intelligence to act effectively against rogue businesses.'

"The GLA is working hard to develop a better understanding of the views of suppliers/labour users, as evidenced in the recent consultation on the GLA's Supermarket Protocol," commented Nigel Jenney, Chief Executive of the Fresh Produce Consortium. "The industry is waiting for the outcome of the consultation, as clarity is essential to ensure that responsible labour users can meet their obligations."

The Hampton Review recognises the importance of trade associations such as FPC to provide valuable insight, and also suggests that the GLA should do more to work closely on the ground to gain 'direct exposure to conditions in the field as a basis for building a closer understanding of issues affecting the sector.'

“Whilst greater understanding of the industry is important and will be enhanced by the recently formed Labour User Group, it is critical that the GLA applies the powers provided within its remit and takes a more strategic focus on those companies acting outside the licensing system, given that the GLA currently estimates that around 25 percent of labour providers are not licensed. These illegal practices must be stamped out to protect the workforce and responsible labour users,” added Nigel Jenney.

The GLA has worked successfully to curb the exploitation of workers by harnessing the support and goodwill of all elements of the food supply chain, from labour users, suppliers (processors and packers) to retailers. The GLA has already demonstrated, through a number of its activities, how working with the supply chain can lead to positive outcomes and bring rogue gangmasters to book.

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Notes for editors:

1. The Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) is the UK’s fresh produce trade association and is based in Peterborough. The FPC has represented the fresh produce sector for many years and is recognised across the UK and EU as the voice of the industry.
2. Extensive membership covers the complete spectrum of industry businesses including growers, importers, wholesalers, retailers, distributors, processors, packers, food service companies and other allied organisations.

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