



# Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority

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The Lord Redesdale  
Chair  
House of Lords Horticultural Sector Committee

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17 April 2023

Dear Lord Redesdale

Ahead of the Horticulture Sector Committee inquiry session on 'Visas and Immigration' on 11 May, which will be attended by our Board Member and Chair of the GLAA Audit and Risk Committee Suzanne McCarthy, I am writing to provide context on how we work with the horticulture sector.

The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) is a Non-Departmental Public Body, sponsored by the Home Office that exists to stop worker exploitation. The GLAA regulates businesses that provide workers to the horticulture, shellfish, agriculture, food packaging and processing sectors. We also have powers to act against labour abuse in the wider labour market (in England and Wales).

Labour providers operating within our regulated sectors are legally obligated to have a GLAA licence. At any one time, we have around 1,100 licence holders who supply workers into the regulated sectors – 443 of which have stated they will operate in the horticulture sector. Labour providers are assessed through inspections on their adherence to GLAA Licensing Standards<sup>1</sup>. It is a criminal offence to supply workers without a licence or use an unlicensed labour provider.

Currently, Seasonal Workers Scheme Operators and any third party labour providers in their supply chain must hold a GLAA licence and comply with the GLAA Licensing Standards. It is worth noting that the Seasonal Workers Scheme is an immigration route which is owned and managed by the Home Office and DEFRA.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, we recorded 15 intelligence reports related to the horticulture sector (0.5% of all reports). On reviewing the relevancy and reliability of the information we received half of the reports led to further GLAA investigation. Those that were not investigated further were either not relevant to the GLAA and therefore signposted to another organisation or were kept for information only. This is comparable to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gla.gov.uk/media/5963/licensing-standards-october-2018-final-reprint-jan-2020.pdf>

the previous two years. Compared to our other regulated sectors last year, we had the fewest investigations in the horticulture sector, with the most being in the agriculture sector.

We look forward to engaging with the inquiry session in May 2023.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elysia McCaffrey', written in a cursive style.

**Elysia McCaffrey**  
*Chief Executive*