

Association of Labour Providers

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Monday 14 May 2007, at 11:00 am, The Abbey Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BU

Present

Mark Boleat (Chairman)
David Camp (Director)
Bernard Gaughan (Total Labour Solutions)
Andy Haselip (Pro-Force)
Andy Hogarth (Staffline)
Karen Lowe (Senate Solutions)
Gary Norman (One Call Recruitment)
Jerry Camp (ALP)
Penny Machale (PJL)

1. Apologies for absence

Lee Rand (Teamwork Resource)
Joanne Young (Right4Staff)
Zahid Daar (Interrecruit)

2. Membership of the Committee

The Committee noted that that AGM would be asked to elect Andy Hogarth (Staffline), Ken Steers (Provista) and Jimmy Davies (HOPS) to the Executive Committee for three year terms.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2007 (Paper 2007/10)

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Issues on the Gangmaster Licensing legislation (Paper 2007/11)

The Committee considered the impact of licensing. Concern was expressed by Penny Machale, Bernard Gaughan and others that the GLA were placing their emphasis on the 'paper trail' that existed for licensed labour providers. Unlicensed labour providers operating in the 'black economy' were not being pursued with the appropriate level of GLA enforcement.

Ken Steers commenting on the BBC interviews with Paul Whitehouse that the GLA's strategy of emphasising the small numbers of enforcement staff were not helpful.

David Camp (ALP Director) informed the meeting that the third GLA Forum Group meeting was to be held on May 16th. He requested that forum agenda items be forwarded to the ALP for consideration.

Although the agenda was mainly driven by the ALP, the Forum Group was a useful vehicle for obtaining clarity from the GLA on many issues.

Karen Lowe expressed concern that many businesses on the GLA register were gaining advantage by declaring themselves to be New Businesses when they were well established businesses.

The GLA raid on Bomfords was discussed. It had been well known that Bomfords were paying labour providers an unrealistically low rate. The ALP Executive agreed that more GLA focus should be given to identifying labour users who paid rates that indicated illegal activity

5. Other issues relevant to members' business (2007/12)

Minimum Charge Rates

David Camp gave a brief explanation of the rationale behind the Minimum Rates Table. The need to have one set of rates agreed by the REC, DEFRA, the Scottish Executive and DARDNI was highlighted. The Minimum Rates Table has now been agreed by all key stakeholders. This table, circulated to ALP Members on May 10th, will be published on the GLA website

Accession States Workers Registration Scheme

The increase in the fee to £90 was heavily criticised. The absence of consultation, analysis, publicity and virtually no notice was condemned by the Committee.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had written to the Minister for Immigration and Asylum requesting a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the scheme.

Accommodation

The Chairman requested from the labour providers present whether they supplied accommodation to their workers. All had ceased the provision of accommodation as uneconomical under the current legislation.

PPE

David Camp led a discussion on PPE and made known that the case of Miles V GLA was imminent and some clarification would be obtained and circulated to ALP Members following the judgment.

6. Membership (Paper 2007/13)

The Committee noted that the Association had 116 paid-up members as at May 10 2007.

7. Financial Position (Paper 2007/14)

The budget for 2007 was agreed by the Executive.

8. Marketing and Website Developments (Paper 2007/15)

The Executive Committee was invited to note the progress of the marketing activity for the year to date.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in early September 2007.