Dear Christine

Thank you for your letter of 18 March about the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA).

I very much welcome your interest in the work of the GLA. There is widespread agreement that the GLA is a key player in supporting work on Modern Slavery and there is a shared desire to see what more we could do with its expertise and how to make best use of its knowledge and skills.

As you will know, the UK Government included a provision in the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which requires a consultation on the role and responsibilities of the GLA to be published within a year of Royal Assent. The consultation will look across all aspects of the GLA’s work, including licensing and enforcement and explore where change is needed and what resources would be needed for any change in responsibilities. The consultation will provide the evidence base needed to make effective changes to the GLA to better enable it to tackle serious exploitation.

Officials from my Department have already met for preliminary discussions with colleagues in the Scottish Government about the public consultation and GLA operations in Scotland.

Thank you again for your interest.

Karen Bradley

Minister for Modern Slavery and Organised Crime