



**Unite the Union  
128 Theobald's Road  
Holborn, London  
WC1X 8TN**

**Tim Carter  
Communications and Press Manager,  
GLA, PO Box 8538,  
Nottingham, NG8 9AF**

*18/01/2010*

Dear Tim

**Re: Consultation on the GLA, Supermarket and Supplier Protocol**

Unite welcomes the new GLA, Supermarket and Supplier Protocol. As stated in our previous response<sup>1</sup> this has the potential to be a powerful weapon in the fight against rogue gangmasters and workers exploitation in the sectors that the GLA covers.

Unite is the only trade union in the agricultural sector and the biggest trade union in the food processing sector. We continue to actively support the GLA's work on ending abuse of gangmaster labour and to push for the GLA to have greater powers and resources.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.epolitix.com/fileadmin/epolitix/stakeholders/GLA\\_and\\_the\\_supermarkets\\_final.pdf](http://www.epolitix.com/fileadmin/epolitix/stakeholders/GLA_and_the_supermarkets_final.pdf)

While still only a voluntary code, the protocol does set in place an agreed procedure on how the GLA will work with the supermarkets and its suppliers.

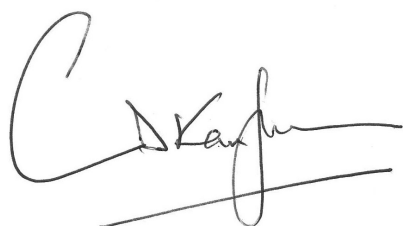
Unite strongly supports placing greater responsibilities on supermarkets and their suppliers for the workers in their supply chains. This protocol is a step in the right direction. If successful it should lead to greater access to intelligence for the GLA and more collaboration to drive out those that abuse workers.

Unite would, however, still like to see some of the clauses in this protocol strengthened. For example retailers and suppliers should all *commit* to signing up for active check and make this a compulsory part of their contracts. Also there should be clearer definitions of what constitutes regular meetings and communications.

Importantly Unite would suggest that there is a mechanism for feedback from all stakeholders and evaluation of how well the protocol is working in practice. It is also important that if supermarkets or suppliers do not honour the spirit of this protocol that there are appropriate sanctions in place. It should be emphasised that active non-cooperation should be highlighted to all the members of the board and if necessary in the press as well.

Unite would be willing to discuss any of the matters above further and will continue to work closely with the GLA. We look to enhancing our good working relationship as we go forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Kaufman', with a large, stylized initial 'C' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Kaufman  
Unite National Officer