

Move to control site gangmasters

Unions are calling for legislation to regulate gangmasters operating in the UK construction industry. The Gangmasters' Licensing Authority, created after the Morecambe Bay cockling disaster, only covers certain sectors such as agriculture and food, but excludes construction. Labour MP Jim Sheridan's 10 minute rule bill proposes extending the legislation to cover construction and is backed by unions in the sector. They say crooked gangmasters are avoiding regulation by moving into the construction industry from the agriculture and food sectors. Bob Blackman, Unite national officer for construction, said: "We are all fully aware of the dangerous environment that our members in the construction industry face. Migrant workers who come to this country for legitimate work are often lured into the twilight world of illegal gangmasters." He added: "Unite has found that those who have suffered under the once poor agricultural working conditions are now experiencing the same problems in the construction industry. Health and safety is essential to those in the building trade and our members have the fundamental right to return safe after a day's work." UCATT general secretary Alan Ritchie said: "If we are going to tackle exploitation and casualisation in the construction industry, it is essential that gangmasters are properly licensed and policed. It is important that the government recognises the ongoing injustices which construction workers face and back this Bill." The Bill will receive its second reading on 16 October.

- [Unite news release](#). [UCATT news release](#). [New Civil Engineer](#). [Construction News](#).