

Dear Ms Onikosi

As a wholesaler and distributor of fresh produce whose main client base is the independent retail greengrocery sector which encompasses fruit shops, licensed street vendors and convenience stores I am highly disturbed and somewhat incensed by the current governments intention to repeal the Pedlars Act of 1871 and 1881. This proposed repeal and the relaxation of European Border controls allowing former Eastern block residents access to our shores will effectively allow itinerant traders the right to trade anywhere at any time without any kind of certification or supervision. This has the potential to cripple many small businesses who are already struggling against the uncontrolled onslaught of the supermarkets and who generally operate on often partially empty high streets. We currently employ within our business 160 local people, we source as much of our product and produce regionally quite often from small independent growers, we have a policy of directly sourcing all of our consumables such as vehicles, uniforms, stationary, computers from local suppliers wherever possible therefore if our end customer is robbed of their livelihood by uncontrolled and unlicensed itinerant traders who can set up store outside or adjacent our customers premises the impact on them would be crippling and almost inevitably terminal which would ultimately lead to our demise.

It is well publicised that this current government has concerns about the state of the high street, the potential influx of unregulated Eastern Europeans and unemployment in the regions and it is my belief that by repealing the Pedlars Act you will effectively be sounding the death bell for independent traders, not only in the green grocery sector but many others such as card and wrapping paper shops, gift shops, sweet shops, independent bakers and butchers to name but a few and as I have already highlighted this will have a detrimental effect on wholesale suppliers, sundry suppliers and inevitably landlords. If we continue to see our high streets decimated the inevitable result will be a massive reduction in revenues to our local councils which in turn will exacerbate already stretched council budgets.

In conclusion, I urge you to seriously reconsider this ill conceived proposal and focus your Government's attentions on helping the independent retail sector who support local businesses and local communities.

Yours sincerely

John Holland

John Holland

Director

J R Holland Produce LLP

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