

## **BIS CONSULTATION ON PEDLARS AND STREET TRADING**

Under the BIS proposals I understand a special case is being made out for pedlars. Effectively they will be allowed to operate without any control and, in many places, they are likely to undermine the position of market and street traders. The creation of a special case for pedlars cannot be justified as by implementing the proposals put forward by BIS, we are likely to have a situation where market and street traders are operating alongside pedlars with market and street traders paying significant fees and being subject to licensing regulation and pedlars paying nothing and being subject to no control at all given that BIS is saying that enforcement action will be considered at some unspecified time in the future.

There is currently no limit on the number of pedlars that can operate in any town centre, there is a risk that the existing market will face a challenge from a group of pedlars who might be seen as constituting a temporary market. While the prospect of such a situation might seem remote under the BIS proposals, it cannot be discounted.

I do not believe that there is anything in the European Services Directive which prevents pedlars being incorporated within the street trading legislation. It therefore comes down to the basic issue of why pedlars are being treated as a special case.

I'll admit I have cut and pasted the above but I do understand the problem in more basic terms. I am a NABMA member and a market manager of a small market town market and you would think this issue does not affect my market. But it does. This Christmas we had pedlars arrive to both our Christmas Light switch on and the Christmas Live event selling glow sticks and hats. They don't pay rent, some don't speak English and certainly don't work within the boundaries of a pedlar. As you can imagine the Police are not interested in policing this problem and never will. Pedlars represent many problems to my market as well as I have one selling hats in the town. His licence is from Manchester miles away from where I manage and bear in mind I have paying traders selling hats ! I'm sure this is not new news and I imagine the bigger towns and cities have this same problem but multiplied. I'm sure you can see the unfair advantage these pedlars have over regular traders. It would be like a BIS setting up shop outside your building paying no rent and having no proper government supervision.