



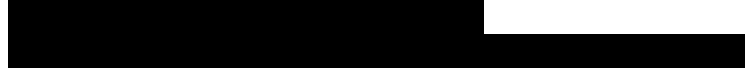
Stockton-on-Tees

BOROUGH COUNCIL

www.stockton.gov.uk

11 December 2014

Please ask for: Angela Brayshaw



RE: Response to consultation on draft regulations to repeal the Pedlars Act.

Dear Rachel Onikosi,

I write to you with Stockton's response to the consultation on draft regulations to repeal the Pedlars Act, to make changes to the street trading regime and BIS's future intention to modernise the regime.

To provide an extensive response to the consultation, a great deal more detail is needed, therefore before the authority can suggest whether to approve or oppose the proposed change in legislation I would be grateful if you could take into consideration the concerns Stockton has by allowing pedlars to trade without a license, and look to seek answers for the comments and questions posed below:

Implications with the existing weekly market: Currently Stockton has a great reputation for a fantastic range of markets and the weekly offer the regular market provides to the residents of the borough. It is currently felt that pedlars roaming free through the centre may threaten the regular weekly market in several ways:

- 1) Pedlars may turn up selling the same products as the licensed traders but pay no ground rent.
- 2) Customers who have a faulty purchase may not be able to return a product leaving low satisfaction rates of visitors to the town.
- 3) How will insurances be checked? All our market traders have to be covered with £5mill PL insurance what makes pedlars different and how is the public protected against them?
- 4) Who will check health and hygiene standards of food and drink pedlars?

Implications for the Regeneration of the town centre: Stockton town centre is currently undergoing a £38million regeneration scheme to bring the area back to life and improve vibrancy and spend in town as well as improve the weekly market. Officers feel that the wrong type of pedlars selling the wrong types of products could be of great concern, the main worries in this area are:

- 1) How does the authority stop several pedlars arriving at once and cluttering the new and improved high street?

- 2) How can the Council allow the type of pedlar onto the town that would fit the newly created space (i.e. an ice cream bicycle or chestnut seller at Christmas) without discriminating against those selling an offer that does not necessarily reflect the new image Stockton is trying to create? Will a criteria or guidance document be drawn up?

How will it be enforced? The current proposals indicate that pedlars have to move 50 yards every 10 minutes unless serving a customer, but who checks how often they move and in which direction? If the answer is the local authority itself, then this is not practical given that most LA's resources are already stretched in terms of financial responsibilities and working capacity.

- 1) Will BIS draw up criteria indicating who can peddle, where for how long and guidance for enforcing these powers including grievance procedures?
- 2) If the Government approve legislation, how does BIS intend to enforce them?

I look forward to hearing the outcome of the consultation and opinions from other local authorities.

Yours Sincerely,



Angela Brayshaw

Regeneration Projects Assistant (Major Projects & Town Centres)