

Environment, Leisure and Residents Services

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Rachel Onikosi
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Department of Business, Innovation & Skills
Consumer and Competition Policy Directive
1 Victoria Street
LONDON
SW1H 0ET

15 March 2013

My reference: BIS consultation
Please ask for: Nicholas Kasic

Reference Pedlars and Street Trading Consultation

Dear Ms. Onikosi,

I thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this process. A great deal of work has gone on around London and the country to get markets and street trading to its current standing. If these proposals come in then who would want to be a fee paying regulated street trader? Markets and street trading are regulated for the simple reason of being able to control the space for the public, the consumer and the trader. Without this simple framework a de-regulated environment would result in disaster for a significant industry that contributes to the economy in terms of employment and spending.

In this borough the effect of the proposals would be devastating and uncontrollable as the cost of enforcing all the activity would become prohibitive. Potentially a massive burden would be placed on local policing to assist in dealing with crowds of pedlars, removing them from more serious issues. Additionally Trading Standards and Environmental Health officers would also be stretched dealing with unregistered pedlars clogging the streets.

Specifically the annual event of Notting Hill Carnival would suffer due to the uncontrollable nature of pedlars under this proposal. Officers, council and police, would be constrained to dealing with all the hazards of a mass of moving receptacles which would impact on the safety of the event and its security. Portobello and Golborne Road Markets, world famous bringing in 30,000 people into the area every Saturday, would be brought to a standstill with a minimum of approximately 400 to 500 jobs put at risk. Instead of visitors and shoppers enjoying the markets in the secure knowledge that traders are registered and known, they would run the gauntlet of unchecked individuals or companies selling them something and disappearing. Iconic shopping locations such



as Harrods in Knightsbridge would again be targeted with the impact of an uncontrollable mass of pedlars creating a situation where enforcement would be impossible and costly.

I support the statements and remarks made by NABMA colleagues. NABMA highlights the clash of consumer protection and the ability for someone to just turn up and trade under guise of being a pedlar. Our residents would have no come back on items they have purchased from pedlars. It is clear to see that council services would be diverted at this time to deal with this problem instead of providing the full range of services it should be.

Being a pedlar at this time does need to be updated with clear definitions being put in place and a national street trading framework setup. The legislation should be national to remove confusion and basic barriers, but it must be clear that dealing with pedlars has a cost which means they need to be regulated to ensure that the cost burden is not just placed on those that choose to be registered street traders.

Further work needs to be carried out to ensure that we provide a platform for everyone to trade and be protected. I am happy to be contacted to assist in any way possible.

Yours Sincerely,

Nicholas Kasic
Markets Manager