

**BIS URN09/1074 consultation:**

email reply from Meriel Campbell-Lloyd to  
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Dear Sirs

My family have been pedlars for many years but I have only recently obtained a certificate. I have been aware of how to trade as a pedlar and have heard about the problems that authorities give my family when they go to different towns. This is the reason why I did not begin earlier and why I decided to go to the meeting with BERR in London last year. I had hoped that the government would tell councils that pedlars have a right to trade just like any other legal business and that there was no right to give them such grief.

I have now read the questions of the consultation and the proposals that government is recommending and I am shocked that it has gone back on its word since our meeting. You said that you did not want to get rid of pedlars but that is exactly what you are proposing by piling up such pressure that I will just give up. You are giving too much power to councils who already abuse us and I have first hand lessons of this.

I expected that the proposals would help relieve me from any contact with councils provided I was acting as a pedlar. But you recommend that my goods can be seized, I can get fined with fixed penalty notices, I can be taken to court on councils suspicion, and I can be driven off the street and forced to work at doors where people don't want me. I think you have lied to all the pedlars who came to meet you in London and I don't think you have actually listened to Mr Chope in parliament. His arguments were true and honest about pedlars and just because he lost the vote to those who did not even hear him doesn't mean that he was not telling the truth and this makes me loose faith that parliament is for the people.

Why have you jumbled up 90 pages of information without actually saying that you want to get rid of pedlars? You say that the new regulation will help pedlars but you know it won't because they will be caught up with illegal traders that are meant to be the target of councils and you also know that London now has more illegal traders than ever before - people are desperate to earn a living. Just walk the streets outside your office and down the south bank and you will find plenty of illegal traders forced to work after hours to avoid officers.

I have heard a lot about pedlars and it is a lie that they go door to door selling and you have been told why that lie exists to show that when a pedlar is on the street they are committing an offense. You have fallen into this idea that came from councils who want to control us as casual traders but when I travel around I haven't got time to go and find if a council office is open and apply for a casual trading licence - they are never open at weekends when I work and I don't trust them to help me anyway.

I was told that the Durham report would give you evidence so you could make a government policy to help pedlars. I have read the report but they found that you don't have to change any laws to help pedlars and recommend that you tell councils to apply existing rules and just update the form for pedlars cert application and issue good guidelines. They didn't recommend confiscation and penalties so why do you? They said most councils don't have any problems and that the only problems identified were complaints from other jealous traders and the size of hawkers trolleys. I don't use a trolley because I am a pedlar but if newspaper sellers are regulated on size then surely a

hawker can also.

I have not answered any of the questions in this paper because when I read through them it is quite clear that pedlars are being steam-rolled, straight-jacketed and made to look like they are a national problem needing to be stamped out. I think the government is not really looking to help pedlars but to confuse everybody into believing that they are.

I personally make and trade paper kites on the streets as a novelty gift for £3 and I would like to know what your paper does to enable me to continue?

yours sincerely

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