

Press Release: for immediate release
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Subject: Article on Pedlary Legislation
Category: social, culture, law, politics, freedoms, rights & responsibilities

314 YEAR-OLD STATUTE BEING GIVEN THE BOOT?

INTRODUCTION

Since 1697 high street consumers have experienced the joy of **pedlars** providing goods and entertainment throughout the United Kingdom. Whether selling balloons at a street carnival or tuning in to an episode of “Only Fools and Horses”, pedlars have become something of a traditional icon for the nation. Can those who choose such an **iconic cultural tradition** be in for a tragic end?

ARTICLE

Every day in the UK, countless, hard working people acting completely within the law go out to trade but are being harassed, summoned to court and having their goods confiscated just like the frustrated vendor in Tunisia by **hyper zealous officers**. This is happening in spite of the fact that London’s City of Westminster produced a report stating that “***bona fide pedlars have never caused a problem***”. In 2009 the HMG commissioned Durham University report to government finds that the public fully support and encourage pedlars and see no reason why pedlars should be wiped out.

“***Reasonable suspicion of committing the offence of unlicensed street trading***” is all the “evidence” an officer needs to try and **criminalise** the pedlar who has a lawful authority to trade in the street - a valid **Pedlars Certificate**. This is not only a breach of human rights but it also opens the door to **racism**, prejudice or just plain **cruelty** by enforcement agents.

The government goes on about encouraging **entrepreneurs**, free enterprise, and one nation, “all in it together” and has set up a massive department called BIS to promote “fair markets”. Does this mean “fair” for the few or fair for the many?

Ordinary people making an effort to work and relieve a burden on the state need to be encouraged and not harassed by petty minded officious local agents with too much power and **unnecessary control**. Getting back to work after such an ordeal is a daunting task, and any pedlar wanting to do charitable work with children or the elderly may find that they become CRB registered and in effect made criminal.

Since 1999 honest traders who have relied on **continuity** of the Pedlars Act for 314 years find themselves being targeted and left without any income because of some tricky amendments by clever agents who use subtle ploys like encouraging officials to intentionally **misinterpret legislation** that actually provides for **both** certified pedlars and licensed street traders to trade in a street. The attempt is to make a pedlar only a door-to-door seller.

So the City of Westminster decided to be “***the trailblazer***” by introducing an Act to deliberately alter and confuse the meaning of simple regulations that are meant to stop unauthorised street trading, but they don’t and pedlars become the **victims**

even though the promoters of this private business Act misled Parliament by saying that “**genuine pedlars** would not be affected”.

BIS is a government department that is meant to be responsible and promotes itself under the banner of “**fair markets**”. BIS is touting policy to strip away the only protection that exists for pedlars - the **Pedlars Act**. The Pedlars Act according to parliament in 1871 was vital to give pedlars **security** and to separate them from being accused as rogues, vagabonds, beggars or to be associated with any part of criminal gangs operating on the streets. In Westminster today the rogues continue but honest pedlars are gone.

BIS realising that they have no public support to hamper pedlars nationally have seized on a European Union Directive as a quick-fix solution to get HMG out of deep water and to hand over control of pedlars to local councils by something called *deregulation* and by getting rid of the national **social contract** of the Pedlars Act. Is this the real agenda for modern, “*we’re all in it together*”, one nation UKGB?

HMG becomes remote and unassailable while at the same time making extravagant claims and calls for others to do better. HMG should be promoting the **allowance** that a pedlar’s certificate gives to all emerging grass roots entrepreneurs seeking an alternative to signing on for benefits or the drudgery of a mindless job. The European Services Directive is intended to **free up the internal market** from unnecessary restriction and for access to enterprise to be available for all people throughout the EU. This is a golden opportunity to widen UK trade with Europe rather than to cow-tow to some narrow domestic interest of a select few.

CONCLUSION

This government’s policy **effects every adult** above the age of seventeen who, in these adverse economic times, should have and does have the right to statutory protection by government. That right is available to some 48 million adults for £12.50 a year to obtain a pedlar’s certificate with trading rights within any part of the UK. The alternative of signing on for benefits costs the government considerably more. It’s time for the Secretaries of State for Business Innovation and Skills BIS, and that of Employment to **promote pedlary** and put the economy back on track from the grass roots upwards – bottom up instead of messed up top down.

Marks & Spencer built an empire out of pedlary and **Lord Sugar** began his apprenticeship with a barrow. **Mohamed Bouazizi** the Tunisian fruit vendor set himself alight because of police abuse and is recognized by **President Obama** as sparking the flame of civil awareness now sweeping through the Middle East. **Lance Orton** the New York street vendor averted the catastrophe of the Times Square bomb and the humble pedlar **Steven Nott** broke the phone-hacking scandal that brought down the News of the World.

So “Guess who?” is responsible for policy to boot pedlars off the street and what’s the real aim?

Regulatory watchdogs **Vince Cable** and **Baroness Wilcox** should be rattling heads in their department of BIS about this absurd policy of “deregulation”. Vince and the Baroness need to find creative ways to accommodate the continuity of pedlary within Europe.

END

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Addenda: see page 3

Reference Addenda:

• Extract from BIS propaganda:

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is building a dynamic and competitive UK economy by:

- creating the conditions for business success
- promoting innovation, enterprise and science; and
- giving everyone the skills and opportunities to succeed.

To achieve this we will foster world-class universities and promote an open global economy.

BIS - Investing in our future

• President Obama – speech at the White House, May 19, 2011

Obama's Speech on the Middle East

By **Barack Obama**, State Department, Washington, DC

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/05/19/obamas_speech_on_the_middle_east_109920.html

• Mohamed Bouazizi

<http://www.pedlars.info/news/83-tunisia-pedlar.html>

• Steven Nott

<http://www.hackergate.co.uk/>

• This is a pedlar

<http://www.pedlars.info/pedlar-research/87-history-of-pedlary-foodstuffs.html>

