

A message from Northants West Police to all members of Neighbourhood Watch in Northamptonshire

A number of queries have recently been raised with regards to the validity of Pedlars Licenses.

The primary legislation covering Pedlars is the Pedlars Acts 1871 and 1881. In short:-

1. A pedlar goes to his customers rather than allowing them to come to him.
2. A pedlar trades as he travels rather than travels to trade.
3. A pedlar is a pedestrian.
4. If a pedlar is a seller, rather than a mender, he sells reasonably small goods.
5. He is entitled to have some means of assisting his transport of goods, such as a trolley, providing this does not contravene points 7 and 8 below.
6. It is necessary to consider his whole apparatus of trading and decide if it is of such a scale to take the person concerned out of the definition of "pedlar".
7. The use of a stall, or stand, or barrow, may indicate an intention to remain in one place or in a succession of different places for longer than is necessary to effect the particular sales indicating that he is a street trader and not a pedlar.
8. If he sets up a stall or barrow and waits for people to approach him, rather than approaching them, that is an indication that he is a street trader and not a pedlar.

A pedlar must produce their certificate [see below] to:-

- * Any justice of the peace
- * Any constable or officer of police
- * Any person to whom such pedlar offers his goods for sale
- * Any person in whose private grounds or premises such pedlar is found

The certificate is valid for one year and is valid in any part of the United Kingdom. However, local byelaws still apply to a pedlar and a certificate does not exempt them from these laws.

The physical certificate issued by Northamptonshire Police has the following properties:-

- * Printed on green security paper containing the royal coat of arms
- * Northamptonshire Police Logo is printed in the top left.
- * The certificate has a photograph supplied by the applicant printed on to the certificate
- * the certificate states the holders name, height, age and address with the county
- * It states the goods that the pedlar can trade in and the dates for which the certificate is valid.
- * The valid certificate is signed at the bottom and it is stamped with a red stamp stating "Northamptonshire Police Firearms Dept"
- * The reverse of the certificate provides guidance notes to all who might need to inspect the certificate along with the units contact details.

Please click on the link within this message, or see below, for an example of the Northamptonshire certificate.

We would like to remind you, 'If you're not sure, DON'T open the door'; you are never required to open your door. If you are unsure of someone's identity, ask them for their name and company, close/lock your door and then call the company from an official number in the phone book. If you are still *unsure*, do not let them into your house.

If you are concerned about a caller at your door or suspect that distraction burglars or rogue doorstep traders are operating in your community, please call our dedicated Doorstep crime Action Network (DAN) number 0345 23 07 702. You can read about the tactics these criminals use at www.northants.police.uk/lookout

**** PLEASE REMEMBER: if a crime is in progress you must call 999 ****

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Please see below for an example of the Northamptonshire certificate, or for a larger colour version use the link.



[<http://www.northantscommunitymessaging.org/rmwebportal/go.aspx?id=78>]

Emergency: 999

Northamptonshire Police Switchboard: 03000 111 222

Or call Crime Stoppers Anonymously: 0800 555 111

Doorstep crime Action Network (DAN): 0345 23 07 702