
From: Josie Appleton [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 February 2016 19:50
To: PSPOconsultation
Cc: Lewis Herbert
Subject: Severe civil liberties concerns about your Draft PSPO

To Cambridge City Council

I am director of the Manifesto Club civil liberties group (www.manifestoclub.com); we run a campaign against the over-use and abuse of PSPO powers, supported by Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust.

I am writing to express our grave concern about your draft PSPO.

We believe this to be an unjustified restriction upon public liberties to use public spaces, and upon independent elements within your local economy and their rights to trade freely.

The evidence quoted in your report does not show that punt touting is causing of public harm or nuisance. Your evidence includes several neutral observations about the existence of punt touts, and a series of problems or complaints which are related to a variety of different issues. You have shown that certain individuals do not like punt touts, but not that the phenomenon is having a seriously detrimental effect on local life.

Most worryingly, this appears to be an area in which your Council has a direct financial interest, through your Destination Management Organisation. In our 18 months of researching national PSPOs, we have never encountered a case where the council has such a clear financial interest in the outcome of the PSPO.

This raises the risks of these open-ended powers being used to private ends, and we will be alerting the Home Office and others to this issue.

In order to show your respect for public liberties, and avoid the reputational damage that is likely to result from pursuing this order, we urge you to reconsider and drop this draft PSPO.

Regards,

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Josie Appleton
director, Manifesto Club
www.manifestoclub.com