

## **Northamptonshire Police Firearms Licensing Unit**

### **Pedlar Certificates**

The Firearms Licensing Unit, in addition to its primary role, is also responsible for the issue and administration of Pedlar Certificates within the Northamptonshire Police Force Area. There is no consistency between police forces regarding which department is responsible for Pedlars with each police force having a different department responsible, i.e. only in Northamptonshire are Pedlars dealt with by the Firearms Licensing Unit. As consequence of this, there is no set format for the appearance of a certificate although the wording required is stated in the Pedlars Act itself.

### **Definition of a Pedlar**

The primary legislation covering Pedlars, is the Pedlars Acts 1871 and 1881. Section 3 of the 1871 states that: -

The term "pedlar" means any hawker, pedlar, petty chapman, tinker, caster of metals, mender of chairs, or other person who, without any horse or other beast bearing or drawing burden, travels and trades on foot and goes from town to town or to other men's houses, carrying to sell or exposing for sale any goods, wares, or merchandise, or procuring orders for goods, wares, or merchandise immediately to be delivered, or selling or offering for sale his skill in handicraft;

In short a pedlar: -

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.

### **Eligibility**

A pedlar certificate is not required by

- Commercial travellers or other persons selling or seeking orders for goods, wares, or merchandise to or from persons who are dealers therein and who buy to sell again, or selling or seeking orders for books as agents authorized in writing by the publishers of such books:
- Sellers of vegetables, fish, fruit, or victuals (foodstuffs).
- Persons selling or exposing to sale goods, wares, or merchandise in any public mart, market, or fair legally established.

A Pedlar certificate shall be granted provided that the Chief Officer of Police granting the certificates is satisfied that the applicant: -

- Is above Seventeen years of age.
- Is a person of good character
- In good faith intends to carry on the trade of a pedlar
- Has resided during one month previous to the application in the police area to whom they are applying.

### **Issued Pedlar Certificates**

Once an application has been received, the applicant is visited by a Firearms Enquiry Officer to confirm that they meet the eligibility requirements for a pedlar certificate. Background checks are also made with PNC and special branch. Once the enquiry has been completed a decision is made by the Firearms Licensing Manager whether to issue a certificate.

The certificate is valid for one year and is valid in any part of the United Kingdom.

However, local bye-laws still apply to a pedlar and a certificate does not exempt them from these laws.

A pedlar must produce their certificate 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 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 the certificate is valid for.
- 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.

## Procedure for the Application & Grant of a Pedlar Certificate

