

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Retailers have criticised the new guidance on shoplifting

Shoplifters facing on-the-spot fines could have the penalties written off if they promise to behave. Fines of £80 or £50 will be deferred if the offender agrees to be bound by an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC).

The British Retail Consortium (BRC) has criticised the scheme for treating criminals "like naughty schoolboys". **Shoplifting is a crime, pure and simple, and it should be treated as one said Kevin Hawkins for the Consortium**

Shadow Home Secretary David Davis said it watered down criminal justice but the Home Office said it was a different tool to help police tackle the problem.

The penalty will be cancelled if the person behaves during the ABC which can last as little as three months. **Police were handed powers to give a Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) in 2004 for offences such as stealing goods worth less than £200, being drunk and disorderly and wasting police time.**

Mr Davis said: "It is bad enough such serious crimes are effectively being punished with a glorified parking ticket. Now we learn the government won't even bother to collect the fine."

The BRC recently said the introduction of fixed penalties had led to a big increase in shoplifting. A Home Office spokesman said: "Deferred PNDs sit alongside Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. They are both tools for police and local authorities to use to promote a change in an individual's behaviour. Breaching the terms of an ABC can have serious consequences. The next step may be the issuing of an ASBO for example."

The Home Office issued new guidance on the use of PNDs and ABCs following a 12-week consultation.

The PPP comments.....with whom did they consult!? And IF Mr Davis became Home secretary what would be his POLICY!?

The whole system was naively based on the yellow card system for football fouls. The government's social engineers assumed that minor criminals were mostly football supporters and would understand and respond to this system. Footballers respond because the ref. Will definitely send them off after 2 yellows. ASBOs don't work well so why should watered down versions work at all. **Institutionally Dishonest Police forces** are happy with any such system that gives them instant **detected status for 'the crime'**. Then they can sit at the computer monitoring the progress in time of all the PNDs. Meanwhile the offenders stay on the streets and carry on as usual.

Paul Smith says that ordinary motorists don't receive such treatment – so clearly the **Home Office rates ordinary motorists in receipt of a technical speeding fine as 'worse than thieves'**. If anyone needed further proof that the Home Office is not fit for purpose this is it.