

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021 (Part 4)
- What does a travelling mother think of it?



Roadside Mum

Louisa Britain - Roadside Mum

@RoadsideMum

Pre-'rona raised kids in a van. Profane. Poor. ME/CFS. Unashamed. Veteran of the free school meals shambles and now editing an anthology of truths on poverty.

England, United Kingdom

Twitter Thread Sep 23, 2020

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1308874449178054659.html>

You may have heard Home Secretary Priti Patel needs to make Trespass a criminal offence to stop hoardes of awful Travellers pitching up on defenceless school fields. Only it is not that! That's a cover! It's actually a tipping point into Nazi type fascism! Yes. Seriously. 1/



Roadside Mum

But, I sense you protesting, Travellers, they just crash onto playing fields and the council can't do anything about it, and, and, and... Whoa a second. I hear your fear. Let me tell you what's going on out there ok (and how to fix it, for less money). 2/



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Councils actually have lots of powers. One tool at their disposal is a 24hr eviction order, as in, if they have grounds, they issue a bit of paper that says, get off by [time] on [date] or else. "Or else" is often professional thugs/bailiffs. Sometimes (rarely) police. 3/



Roadside Mum

A recent Freedom of Information request to the government by [@GypsyTravellers](#) found that the police know perfectly well they have powers already. The clear majority of police responding to last year's public consultation said they had no need of the proposed powers. 4/



Roadside Mum

So how come then, if the councils have all these powers, they didn't evict that encampment you know about, who were there for 2 weeks, and put you right off walking your little doggy? Well maybe because they didn't have to? What if, those Travellers weren't harming anyone? 5/



Roadside Mum

What if they were with kids, or elderly infirm relatives they care for, what if they were following a seasonal job, what if they included me, you know me (well as much as you can off Twitter) I am nice enough? How far should the law extend to ban me from living moveably? 6/

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Why do you even need a law to make it a criminal offence not to like houses anyway? Well, according to the consultation it's to stop me from: - Crashing school fields - Fly tipping - Having stolen vehicles - Antisocial behaviour That's how they are selling it. 7/



Roadside Mum

What if though, I've never parked my home on a school field, fly tipped, handled a stolen vehicle, or been criminally anti social? You still need a law against me? Really? It says it's about trespass though, so surely it only affects me if I crash some land? Wrong!!! 8/



Roadside Mum

The act itself widens the very definition of trespass to being basically on any land at all that you don't own. Oh and by land they mean road. Y'know. The public road. The one I pay road tax for. That road. That'd be the crime of trespass. 9/



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If you read tweet 9 and exclaimed "bollocks" I don't blame you. If they made all having a vehicle on the road illegal they would shut the country down in an instant, what a mental idea.... Don't worry. They made it not apply to you. It only applies to me. Here's why... 10/



Roadside Mum

The proposals widen the definition of trespass to include the public highway. Specifically. It's stated. They decrease the number of vehicles needed to make it actionable down to 2. (So one caravan and car then. Or one motorhome with a scooter on the back even). 11/



Roadside Mum

Worst of all they put a clause in, so Bunty, and her groom, breaking the trip back from the Showjumping with an SUV & trailer don't get caught out. The words are "intent to reside". So if you have a house you reside there. If with No Fixed Abode, I stop? Instant crime. 12/



Roadside Mum

The absolute evil of "intent to reside" is you don't have to have done anything. Someone (any passing busybody) has to think you look like you might live in the thing. If it's criminal, not a civil offence like it is now, the police have to respond to the busybody. 13/

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I haven't even got to stay the night, if we stop, even for a cup of tea, no, less than that, even for a cigarette, no less, even for a second, a literal second... We have committed a crime if we have 2 vehicles. That's 1 car & caravan don't forget. Or 1 motorhome & moped. 14/



Roadside Mum

It means that this law wipes out roadside life in the UK, with a sledgehammer. What sledgehammer? Glad you asked. How about this scenario, I'll describe it for you ok, picture this with me... 15/



Roadside Mum

Let's say I am at home with Roadside Dad, and 3 of our kids. Eldest has epilepsy. The 2 smallest are both under 10 years old. Someone goes by and notices we exist. They call police. The police will recognise me from all the times I have grassed up drug dealers (truly)... 16/



Roadside Mum

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... so there's no protesting I don't live in it. It's a recorded fact I do. That's a crime. They now have to seize my home. Yes. Seize. If I won't open the door and let them (I definitely won't) they have to smash their way in. Even with the kids inside. Because crime... 17/



Roadside Mum

... when they are in, they have to arrest me, Roadside Dad & Eldest who is over 18. The proposals will ban me from the authority area, so the county. The whole county. For a year. We are being nicked for a crime. So we'll never pass a criminal record check again... 18/



Roadside Mum

... when I walk out of that nick I can't get homeless support, even with the kids, because my county, the one where I have the magic "local connection", is the same one I am barred from for a year. They have a duty to the kids though. So that only leaves foster care... 19/



Roadside Mum

... Social work would look for relatives before fostering, like siblings. But the law just made Eldest criminal too. That's right. You don't have to be responsible to get

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hit with with the law, you just have to be there. Oh Eldest by the way WILL have a seizure- blue lights... 20/



Roadside Mum

... I would like to think that the ambulance crew have enough courage and love for their fellow humans to take Eldest to the nearest major hospital, but it's in this county... So are they going to know where they stand in law, given Eldest will be banned from this county?... 21/



Roadside Mum

The proposed law is absolutely obscene. You would think it would need to go to court to come to that, that the police couldn't destroy my whole family in an afternoon just at the drop of a hat? Yeah you'd think. Nope. It's POLICE powers/requirements. Not courts. 22/



Roadside Mum

Listen. The proposal would bring disproportionate police violence to peaceful, quiet, respectable families for just existing doing no harm to anyone! Oh and after they are done beating me, half killing Eldest, stealing my kids, they'll crush my home. Nearly forgot to say. 23/

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Roadside Mum

That's why it's Nazi. It's the persecution of a minority (a racial minority if the travelling family are ethnically Gypsy, Roma or Traveller, at that). It's state brutality. And it's being sold to you on a lie. "Fascism arrives as your friend" - @MichaelRosenYes 24/



Roadside Mum

But you don't like: - Fly tipping - Stolen vehicles - Antisocial behaviour Etc. Awful aren't they. I don't like them either. Shitty behaviour. Make better laws about them. I have marched for better environmental laws, my kid even spoke at a rally. Get on with it already. 25/



Roadside Mum

What of the big one though, what of crashing school fields? I told you I would give you the answer and it's.... *Drum roll* More sites. Don't look so downbeat, I know "it's expensive"... It's only expensive because you do it wrong. I know how to make it cheap!! 26/

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There is a scheme running in Leeds,

[@LeedsGATE](#)

can tell you all about it, and it's called Negotiated Stopping. In a nutshell, the council let Travellers stop on disused land, for a set period, if they be good. Simple as that. So cheap. Look it up. 27/

negotiatedstopping.co.uk



Roadside Mum

Cheap not good enough, you want it free? Sure. Why not. The "problem" of Unauthorised Encampment can be solved literally free... You ready... We'll build sites. We ain't all skint you know. Plenty of travelling people have land and/or skills to develop it. Let us. 28/



Roadside Mum

Almost all planning applications from travellers looking for a pitch are refused. They are refused for the most absurd reasons, excuses actually. It's not just a few, it's virtually every application, even when we hire professionals to vet them to be sure they are perfect! 29/



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The rates are stark. Almost all settled applications for planning succeed. Almost all Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) applications fail, even though GRT routinely use Planning Consultants, because there is no hope at all without.

Maybe [@GypsyTravellerM](#) have exact stats? 30/



Roadside Mum

If a proposal: 1. Doesn't solve the problem it says it does 2. Is not wanted by authorities 3. Is desperately expensive 4. Is racist 5. Is rejected at public consultation Why would you even carry on? Why? Coz it'll also criminalise rambling, protest & rough sleepers. 31/



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