February

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“Eat up your greens!” The government moves into the Personal sphere

Not content with setting up systems of mass surveillance and control the government has begun to try to micromanage the public by interfering in matters of personal choice. Driven by the health and safety craze and a basic lack of respect for the average citizen, officials presume to tell us how to run our own lives, often with bizarre and sinister results, as these examples show.

Damien and Charlotte Hall, where told they would not be able to adopt a child by Leeds City Council, until Mr. Hall lost weight. The 24 ½ stone man was told his weight made him at risk of ill health and so he could not be entrusted with the upbringing of a child. Times Online, January 2009

A Government initiative proposes to send officials to quiz householders on their doorsteps at supper time, about food consumption and how best to make use of their freezers. The £30,000 trial project was devised by the Waste and Resources Action Programmed (WRAP Daily Mail, Jan 2009

Under new laws, two Labradors were seized from Marie Davidson by the RSPCA because they where deemed too fat and at risk from being overfed. Telegraph, January 2009

A cemetery threatens to the install CCTV cameras if the visitors don’t stop leaving their litter on graves, such as flowers and wreaths that blow all over the graveyard BBC News, January 2009,
A charity called Bookstart, which promotes reading for children around the country, has removed any reference to alcohol from the children’s song ‘What shall we do with a drunken sailor.’  
**Daily Mail, January 2009**

Park wardens in Shropshire have been ordered to stop and interrogate lone adults in the park to check if they are paedophiles. The policy came to light after two environmental campaigners dressed as penguins were thrown out of the park because they had not undergone CRB checks or risk assessments before entering the park.  
**Daily Mail, September 2008**

A woman was reprimanded by a teacher at her son’s school for giving him a chocolate spread sandwich on his birthday because it was not nutritionally balanced.  
**Times Online January 2009,**

Lincoln City Council are planning to train plumbers and electricians to look out for signs of child abuse when they visit houses.  
**lincolnshire.co.uk October 2008**

A couple from Edinburgh, aged 46 and 59, were told they were too old to care for their 5 and 4 year old grandchildren instead of their children’s mother, a recovering heroine addict. Instead the children were adopted by another couple.  
**Daily Mail January 2009,**

At least 25 Councils are photographing houses with thermal imaging cameras in the middle of the night to see whether they are wasting energy. Homeowners then receive a copy of the image and a letter explaining how to save energy.  
**Daily Mail, Jan 2009**

Absent parents who do not pay child maintenance, could have their passports and driving licenses taken from them by child maintenance official without going to court.  
**The Times January 2009,**

Tricia and Thomas Russell have been told by the Highway agency that a sign with an arrow pointing to their pub The Black Dog, was too distracting and encouraged drink driving to motorists who were passing  
**Daily Mail, 18 Sept 2008**

Waltham Forest Council plans to ban any takeaways being set up within 400 meters of schools, youth centres and parks to try to combat child obesity.  
**The Guardian October 2008**

Government tells parents that they should not let their children try a alcohol before the age of 15 as they are putting the children at risk of brain damage, depression and memory problems.  
**Daily Mail January 2009**

Colchester and Tendring NHS Stop Smoking Service has started recruiting nursery children to stop their parents smoking by showing the 3 year olds depictions of the damage that cigarettes cause.  
**Telegraph January 2009,**

Government Bureaucrats are to demand to know the sexual preferences of millions in a new major nation wide survey. This means that a question about sexual identity is now almost certain to be included in the next census, which will be held in 2011.  
**5th December 2008, Daily Mail**
Obese children will be taken into care as it is as part of local government initiative to curb over eating. Many councils including Tower Hamlet have been forced to take action, claiming that the children weight was an example of parental neglect Daily Mail. August 2008

NHS Ayrshie and Arran have started a scheme where nurses will patrol the streets armed with tape measures and equipment for blood tests searching for the overweight. Once found they will be given dieting tips or referred to the nearest slimming classes. Scotland on Sunday, September 2008,

Social services installed CCTV camera in a young couples bedroom, who have learning disabilities, to see if they where capable of looking after their baby, despite the child sleeping in a separate nursery Telegraph November 2008,

Ealing NHS stop smoking team are going to be patrolling streets, approaching people smoking and inviting them to take a carbon monoxide breath test. The team will suggest counselling and use council support. Ealing Times, September 2008

Teachers in England will have to act as ‘role models’ both in and out of school under a proposed new code of conduct written by General Teaching Council for England. This means teachers could lose their jobs if they get into drunken arguments or do not seek help for substance abuse. BBC News, December 2008

People wishing to foster children in a North East borough of London from 2010, will not be allowed to if they smoke. Redbridge Council believe this will protect children from the damaging effects of second hand smoke BBC News, November 2008

Government is considering forcing shoppers in supermarkets to buy alcohol at separate checkouts. This would bring the sale of alcohol into the same line as cigarettes in an effort to tackle binge drinking. Telegraph October 2008