

NME ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN TO STAMP OUT THE TICKET TOUTS!

NME, the UK's number one weekly music magazine has declared a **war on ticket touts** as yet another festival season has left thousands of music fans unable to gain access to their favourite gigs and festivals!

The magazine first highlighted the issue back in **May 2005**, pointing out that whilst it is illegal to make a profit by selling on football tickets, there are **no such laws** banning the same practice for gig tickets. Meanwhile, the rise of online auction sites has made it a haven for the touts – with some tickets going for two three and four times their face value.

NME Editor Conor McNicholas has officially called time on the situation, stating that action must be taken now: *"Music fans have been ripped off for long enough - the NME is calling for the Government to take steps to legislate against ticket touts. Its illegal to tout football tickets, why should it be any different for the music industry?"*

In addition, fans, promoters and artists have **joined the NME** in widespread **condemnation** of the touts. A spokesperson for Reading and Leeds promoters Mean Fiddler told *NME* they "strongly condemned" the selling-on of tickets and continued:

"Mean Fiddler made every effort to ensure that the tickets went to genuine festival goers," they said in a statement. "It is extremely difficult for us to identify sellers and cancel their tickets, but, where possible, these steps will be taken."

Meanwhile **Glastonbury** organiser **Michael Eavis** has pioneered the ID card, a system which was extremely successful in 2005 when only 20 revellers managed to slip through the net without a valid ticket. Calling on other festival promoters to follow suit Eavis says:

"All festivals should adopt this system...It really gets to me when people that want to come have to pay £600, £700 for it. Its outrageous. We did a bloody good job last year, but we're going even further."

Radiohead's Thom Yorke goes one step further in damning the touts stating that any online sellers who *do* make a profit should donate it to charity: *"It seems only fair unless you're a shallow *****"*

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