



Nick Sommerlad and Andrew Penman always on the ball...

Leigh-ve it out you lot

By [Nick Sommerlad](#) on May 6, 2011 4:35 PM [in Timeshare & holidays](#)



Cronies of Costa conman Gary Leigh have been ordered to stop scamming holidaymakers by the High Court, the Office of Fair Trading announced today.

We've long warned readers about Leigh (above) and his dodgy Spanish-based holiday club empire. Leigh died last summer before the OFT began legal action against three of his companies and seven of his closest business associates and staff.

The OFT believes timeshare owners went to sales presentation "on the promise of being able to dispose of their timeshares, with their maintenance charges, when in fact they were subjected to lengthy and high pressure sales pitches to be sold expensive holiday club memberships costing large sums, in some cases up to £12,000".

They were promised up to 95% of their money back under a "reclaim" scheme but weren't told "the restrictions that applied". Leigh's reps also "often played on their fears that their children would otherwise be liable for timeshare maintenance fees" and buyers were denied the right to cancel if they changed their mind.

The High Court has issued enforcement orders which, among other things, "prohibit the companies and the individuals from engaging in misleading sales practices when dealing with people who want to dispose of their timeshares, and require consumers to be given cancellation rights in certain circumstances".

Interim orders were obtained against two firms, Personal Travel Group Limited and Geo Demographic Market Research Limited, and against the directors Keith Barker (below) and Kimberley Bambroffe (above, with Leigh). These will last until the outcome of High Court proceedings brought against the firms and bosses over alleged breaches of consumer law.



Final orders were obtained against five senior staff - Martin White, Jonathan Daniels, Mark Gales, Robert Knight and Lily Alderson. If breached, they could face jail, a fine or seizure of their assets.

Jason Freeman, Director in the OFT's Goods and Consumer Group, said: "The enforcement orders put a stop to activities that we consider to be unlawful, and which we believe were causing serious harm to consumers.

"It is important that traders do not mislead consumers or exploit their fears in order to make a hard sell. In particular, these are contracts where we believe consumers should have been given cancellation rights and we are pleased that the traders have accepted that they have to give notice of such rights in accordance with the law.'

"The content of the orders was agreed by the companies, the individuals and the OFT, and approved by the Court."