

## FACT SHEET

# CHARITY CLOTHING COLLECTIONS ADVICE FOR RESIDENTS

Many charities ask householders for old clothes and other items, which can be sold for charitable purposes. However, not everyone who comes to your home, or drops in a plastic bag is operating on behalf of a charity.

Typically you will receive a flyer through your letterbox appealing for donations of unwanted clothes, footwear etc and are asked to leave the goods in a plastic bag by the front door which are then collected.

Many collections are genuine however sometimes the flyers give the misleading impression that the items are being collected for charitable purposes. In reality, the items that you put out could be collected by commercial operators who then sell the donated items for profit.

The international price for second hand textiles is at an all time high, and demand is great. This has led to an increasing number of commercial companies collecting directly house to house.

Remember many collections will be for genuine charities and will be an important aspect of their fundraising for worthy causes.

However If you have any doubts about a collector don't put items out for collection and take them to your local charity shop instead.

**Overleaf are some tips** on how to check that the items you are donating are going to be used on behalf of a genuine charity

### Contact Details for the Licensing Section

<b>Personal visit to:</b> Stroud District Council Offices Ebley Mill, Westward Road, Stroud. (We would advise callers to make appointments)	<b>Writing to us at:</b> The Licensing Section, Environmental Health Service, Stroud District Council, Council Offices, Ebley Mill, Westward Road, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4UB
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:licensing@stroud.gov.uk">licensing@stroud.gov.uk</a>	<b>Phone:</b> 01453 754440
<b>Internet:</b> <a href="http://www.stroud.gov.uk">www.stroud.gov.uk</a>	<b>Fax:</b> 01453 754963

## Tips for checking if charity clothing collections are genuine:

- Make sure that you read the small print on the flyer detailing what will happen to the donations put out for collection
- Look for the organisation's full name, address on the flyer or bag
- See if there is a registered charity number on the flyer. If there is you can contact the Charity Commission Helpline on 0845 300 0218 or [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk) see if it's a bona fide charity.
- Some organisations will give a registration number which is actually a limited company registration number - all this shows is that they are, or were, registered at Companies House.
- Be aware that a commercial company can collect on behalf of a registered charity, but they must state which charity they represent and should have authorisation from that charity.
- The House to House Collections Act 1939 requires people making genuine Charity collections to have a permit from Stroud District Council. You can contact the Licensing Section at Stroud District Council on 01453 754440 to see if a collector has a permit.
- Under the House to House Collections Act 1939 large national charities will have an exemption order issued by the Home Office allowing them to make collections without having to get a permit from the Council. A list of all organisations holding an exemption order can be found on their website.  
[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/law\\_and\\_regulation/fundraising\\_and\\_collections/holders\\_orders\\_exemption.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/law_and_regulation/fundraising_and_collections/holders_orders_exemption.aspx)
- It is not an offence for a private company to make collections which are not for a charitable purpose however they should not mislead householders by making it appear that it is a charity collection.
- Some companies may be collecting on behalf of a charity based in another country. In this case it is very difficult to check if it is a genuine charity.
- Trading standard list known bogus companies and scams on their website [www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/glos/](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/glos/)
- If in doubt do not put items out for collection and take to your local charity shop instead