

Bogus Charity Bag Collections

Trading Standards are asking residents to be aware of so called charity bags being left at homes in Staffordshire by profit-making companies.

The bags usually look very similar to those left by bona-fide charities, but rather than going to charity shops, the items are sent to Eastern Europe or Africa where people are employed to sort the items ready for sale.

Genuine charity bags should display a registered charity number; however these companies often display a registered company number which looks very similar.

Although most of these companies are not breaking the law, these bags often mislead residents, who believe that their unwanted clothes and bric-a-brac items are being used to help charities, when in most cases items are being sold for profit.

To be sure that your unwanted items are going to charity, you can check out the credentials given on the bag with the Charity Commission on 0845 300 0218 or look on their website www.charity-commission.gov.uk.

Alternatively donate items straight to the charity shop of your choice and that way you know exactly where they have gone.

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All our alerts are available in a range of formats and languages, including large print. Please contact Community Development if this would be helpful to you, or to someone you know. Address: 14 Martin Street, Stafford, ST16 2LG

