

Charity Clothing Collections

Many charities legitimately collect unwanted clothing through the use of collection bags to raise funds for their cause. However, there is increasing concern amongst local residents regarding the number of collection bags being distributed and the legitimacy of these collectors.

Many of the bags that come through your letter box will be genuine. However, some will be companies who will sell your goods on for profit. As long as they detail this somewhere on the bag or flyer, they are not breaking the law. There have also been incidents where bags left on driveways for collection have been stolen before the charity has chance to pick them up.

Charities report losing upwards of £3million each year through theft of clothing and bogus collections. Evidence suggests that a lot of clothing ends up being sold abroad.

So, rather than leaving a bag of unwanted items on your driveway for collection it is worth considering donating items directly to a charity shop of your choice. If you have a lot of items, or are unable to get to a shop, many will collect from your home at a time that is convenient to you.

You can also check out an agency before donating clothing, by contacting the Charity Commission on 0845 300 0218 or look at www.charity-commission.gov.uk They will be able to tell you if the agency is a legitimate charity, or a profit making company.

If you have concerns about a clothing collection operating in your area, please report this to Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

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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.

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