



An Rialálaí  
Carthanas

Charities  
Regulator



# Clothing Collections Public Notice

## Public Notice on Clothing Label Collections and Clothing Bank Collections for Donors

March 2021

One of the most frequent concerns raised by members of the public with the Charities Regulator is in relation to whether certain clothing label collections and clothing bank collections are organised by, or for the benefit of, registered charities. This guidance note is aimed at assisting members of the public to make an informed decision when donating.

If you are a donor wishing to ensure that your clothing donation goes to a charity, the Charities Regulator encourages you to check the Register of Charities at [www.charitiesregulator.ie](http://www.charitiesregulator.ie) before you donate to confirm that any organisation that you are contemplating making a donation to is a registered charity.

Clothing collections in aid of charities generally fall within one of two categories; clothing label collections or clothing bank collections.

### 1. Clothing Label Collections

This type of collection typically involves a leaflet or label being hand delivered to a home or business, sometimes attaching a collection bag. The label appeals for a donation of clothing to be left outside the home or business for collection on a specified date. These collections may be organised directly

by a registered charity, or a registered charity may outsource clothing collections to a service provider in return for a fee or a share of the profit.

### 2. Clothing Bank Collections

This type of collection typically involves a large container being placed in a prominent location where members of the public can deposit clothing donations. The labelling on the clothing bank will normally include some detail regarding the appeal being made, and set out the type of clothing that should be deposited. Again, these collections may be organised directly by a registered charity, or a registered charity may outsource the clothing bank activity to a service provider in return for a fee or a share of the profit.

### 3. Promotional Material and Logos

Promotional materials, labelling, leaflets and stickers for clothing label and clothing bank collections which are for the benefit of registered charities should include the following information:

- The registered charity's name, logo, Registered Charity Number (RCN) and contact details (including phone, email and website address).

- If the collection is being carried out by a service provider on behalf of a charity, then the name and contact details for the service provider should also be present (including phone, email and website address).
- Brief details of what will happen to your donation. For example, your clothing donation might be going directly to the people that the charity assists or the clothes and other items that you donate might be sold or recycled to raise funds for the charity instead. What will happen to your donation should be made clear.
- The benefit the charity will receive from the donation.

If you are in any doubt, we advise members of the public who wish to check whether a particular clothing collection leaflet or bag they have received is a charitable collection, to contact the registered charity directly in the first instance. You can also check the Register of Charities on our website at [www.charitiesregulator.ie](http://www.charitiesregulator.ie) to see if an organisation is a registered charity.

#### 4. Property Owner

If you are a property owner and an approach is made to you from an individual or organisation seeking permission to place a clothing bank on your property for the benefit of a charity, you should check the register of charities, which is available online at [www.charitiesregulator.ie](http://www.charitiesregulator.ie), to ensure that the charity is registered. You should also contact the charity directly to confirm that they are aware that clothing donations are being sought on their behalf.

#### 5. Clothing Collections That Are Not For Charitable Purposes

It is important to be aware that not all organisations that solicit clothing donations are registered charities. Some organisations carry on the trade of clothing collections on a legitimate

basis for commercial profit.

However, it is not permissible for an organisation that is not a registered charity to refer to itself as a charity, or to describe itself or its activities in such terms as would cause members of the public to reasonably believe that it is a charity.

If you wish to complain about a leaflet or advertisement appealing for clothing donations, you can raise a concern with the Charities Regulator by completing our online concerns form which is available at [www.charitiesregulator.ie](http://www.charitiesregulator.ie). If you have an immediate concern that a clothing collection may not be genuine, the Charities Regulator would urge you to make contact with An Garda Síochána. The Charities Regulator liaises with An Garda Síochána in respect of these matters on an ongoing basis.

This public notice is issued by the Charities Regulator pursuant to section 14(1) of the Charities Act 2009.



Search the Register of  
Charities

Use our search to find registered  
charities