



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate issue – 30 April 2009

INSTITUTE AND ACS SHOW COMMITMENT TO CODE OF CHARITY RETAILING

Together with the Association of Charity Shops, the Institute of Fundraising has spoken out against a proposed new code of conduct concerning the operation of door-to-door clothing collections, which is already covered by the Association of Charity Shops' own code.

The decision to develop a new code of conduct which oversees the operation of door-to-door clothing collections was recently made at a meeting of charities and commercial collectors, hosted by Clothes Aid.

The Association of Charity Shops' Code of Charity Retailing, which has been in operation since 2005, adequately sets down key standards, including for members' house-to-house collections. The Code has been revised this year to increase the transparency requirements for house-to-house collections, particularly for commercial partnership collections.

David Moir, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at the Association of Charity Shops, says:

"It is vital that public trust and confidence in charity and in house to house collections is maintained and that there is a common set of standards. Otherwise, donors cannot compare like with like. Our Code is freely available for others to adopt"

Lindsay Boswell, Chief Executive of the Institute of Fundraising, says:

"The proposal for a new, potentially confusing code comes from Clothes Aid, a commercial collection company. There is the danger that this will be seen by some to be a code which

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looks after Clothes Aid's interests rather than those of charities, or more importantly, the donating public.

"We're calling on Clothes Aid to work to the standards of the Association of Charity Shops' Code, and if they feel that code requires strengthening to make that case to the Association."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Institute of Fundraising

The Institute of Fundraising's (www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk) mission is to support fundraisers, through leadership, representation, standards setting and education, to deliver excellent fundraising. Members are supported through training, networking, the dissemination of best practice and representation on issues that affect the fundraising environment. The Institute of Fundraising is the largest individual representative body in the voluntary sector with 5000 Individual members and 300 Organisational members

2. The Association of Charity Shops represents 300 charities which, together, operate 6,800 shops in the UK
3. In 2008, they raised about £120m for vital charitable causes
4. The Code of Charity Retailing was introduced in 2005, in response to Government encouragement for self-regulation in charity fundraising. It sets standards for all aspects of shop operations, collections of goods, the operation of textile banks and more general requirements relating to statutory obligations (see www.charityshops.org.uk/CodeCharityRetailing.html). From 1 April 2008, all charity members of the Association have been required to adopt the Code.