

Submission from Charity Retail Association

Response to call for evidence on the Policy Statement on Zero Waste Regulations

The Charity Retail Association is the trade association for UK charity shops. It represents 80% of the charity retail sector, with more than 340 members operating over 7,000 shops. We estimate there are over 800 charity shops in Scotland and over 70% of them are run by our members.

We welcome the acknowledgment in the Policy Statement of the role of the charity retailing sector in diverting textiles from landfill.

We also welcome the decision not to include textiles as one of the materials local authorities must collect.

We believe that charity shops still have under-utilised capacity for the collection and re-use of textiles in Scotland and that more can be done to maximise their role. As well as textiles being a source of stock for charity shops, we estimate that charity shops divert over 360,000 tonnes of textiles from landfill per year through reuse in their shops and recycling, UK wide. Of this, we estimate that over 30,000 tonnes are diverted by Scottish charity shops. Prevention of waste and reuse are clearly more optimum in the waste hierarchy than other forms of waste management (for example, recycling) – and we believe that charity shops can help achieve a Zero Waste Scotland through their extensive reuse activity.

The number one concern of the sector is the lack of stock to satisfy the demand. We would be glad to work with the Scottish government and local authorities to explore ways in which charities could help achieve a zero waste Scotland and divert textiles as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Warren Alexander
Chief Executive, Charity Retail Association