

## **Warning over Clothes Collection Flyer**

Residents in Bath and North East Somerset are being warned about a flyer which has been delivered to households in the area this week.

The flyer is titled 'Third World Clothing Collection' and asks people if they have any old, unwanted clothes.

Produced by 'Help and Support Ltd', it says they collect items which are then sent to the Third World where they are carefully sorted and worn again.

People are asked to put their donations in a bag outside their property.

Bath and North East Somerset Trading Standards Service say the wording of the leaflets may lead people into believing that the collections are for charity.

Roger Pope, Principle Trading Standards Officer, said: "I would always advise people to exercise caution when donating their unwanted items, particularly where donated items may be sold for commercial gain rather than being provided through a charitable organisation."

Mr Pope added that he was concerned that people could believe they are dealing with a charity and as such, could deprive registered charities of income.

"Our advice will always be to check the small print before donating. Consumers can check whether an organisation is a charity by contacting the Charity Commission.

"Alternatively, take your donations direct to a recognised charity or local charity shop of your choice where you can be confident that your donations will benefit those in need."

- For more advice, contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.