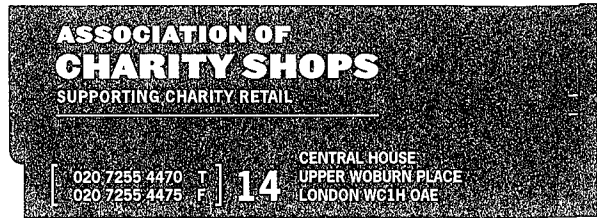


1045/06



Sir Michael Lyons
 Inquiry into Local Government
 Room 3/12
 1 Horse Guards Road
 London, SW1A 2HQ

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23 June 2006

Dear Sir Michael

PRESS REPORTS ABOUT HOUSEHOLD WASTE CHARGING

The broadcast and print media reported last week that you were considering an additional levy on non-recycleable household waste to encourage waste reduction, as part of your review of local government. I appreciate, of course, that such reports are not necessarily correct, but I felt it would be helpful to contact you early in any case.

My Association represents over 250 charities, which operate around 6,500 shops.

As I am sure you know, the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 class waste from charity premises as household waste, for which authorities may make a collection charge. Some authorities use their discretion and waive charges, but many do not. Any proposal, therefore, which might increase the costs of household waste collection will impact heavily on our members' direct costs.

We are also concerned that - in the face of increased costs - householders may (quite innocently) see charity shops as a convenient alternative outlet for some types of waste, much of which cannot be re-used. Charity shops play a key role in reducing waste streams, through promoting re-use of many thousands of tonnes of good quality goods and materials every year. But, any increase in the supply of unsaleable goods - as might happen - will only increase burdens for our members.

I would be very grateful, therefore, if any proposals for changes to the treatment of household waste collection could take the fact of charity waste classification, and these specific concerns, into account.

I would be happy to meet you to discuss these concerns, and I look forward, of course, to contributing to future consultations on your recommendations.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

David Moir

DAVID MOIR
 Head of Policy & Public Affairs

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