

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 22 January 2024 10:42
To: DRCD SE Consultation
Subject: Re: Public consultation on a new national social enterprise policy
Attachments: Charitable Sorting Facilities for Enhanced Data Collection in the Circular Economy.pdf; Government Investment in Charitable Circular Textile Sorting Centers for Climate Action .pdf

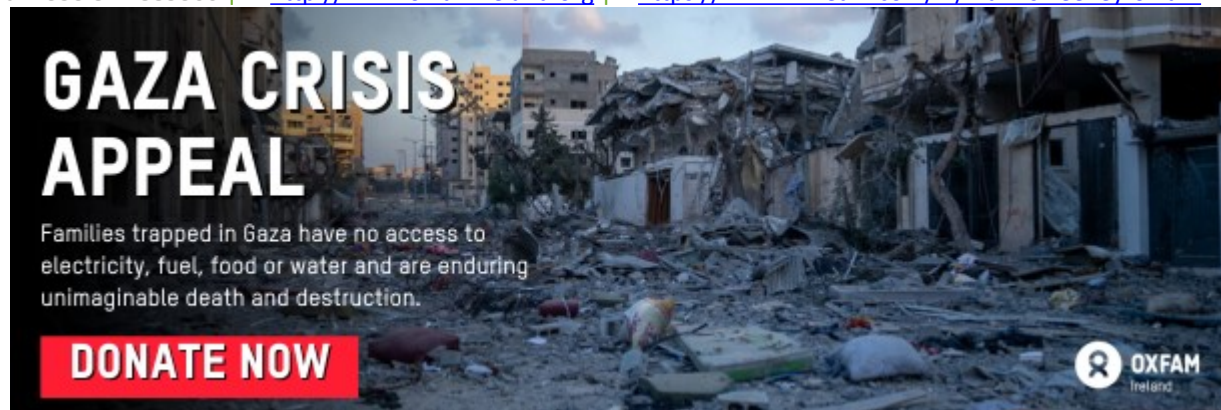
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To whom it may concern ,

I am attaching additional proposals around the importance of charities in the next phase of national social enterprise policy . With the proposed Waste Management Directive for Textiles starting on 01/01/2025 , charity retailers need great social enterprise investment to deal with the increased volumes of textile. I , along with other members of Charity Retail Ireland have been involved with the Textile Advisory Groups , however I feel it is important that our voice , and challenges are included in the Social Enterprise Policy . Please find two proposals attached for review .

Regards
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Title: Transformative Investment: Charitable Sorting Facilities for Enhanced Data Collection in the Circular Economy**

****Executive Summary:****

This innovative proposal focuses on leveraging investments in sorting facilities for charities to enhance data collection in Ireland's circular economy. Under Policy Objective Five, emphasizing Data Collection & Social Impact Measurement, the aim is to improve transparency, inform policy development, and empower social enterprises with impactful data for business opportunities and funding.

****1. Rationale:****

Investing in sorting facilities for charities aligns with the policy objective's intent, providing a practical approach to enhance data collection. The proposal emphasizes the potential of these facilities in generating valuable data on reuse and recycling activities.

****2. Proposed Solution: Sorting Facilities for Charities:****

Advocate for targeted investments in sorting facilities run by charities. These facilities will not only streamline the reuse and recycling processes but also serve as data hubs for comprehensive data collection on the types and quantities of goods being processed.

****3. Benefits:****

- Improved levels and quality of data on social enterprises, contributing to a stronger evidence base.
- Enhanced transparency and understanding of the sector's scope, aiding policymakers and stakeholders.
- Empowering social enterprises to transparently demonstrate their credentials when seeking opportunities and funding.

****4. Baseline Data Enhancement:****

Propose measures to improve baseline data on social enterprises, building upon the 2023 National Baseline Data Collection project. Strengthen national, regional, and local data availability to provide a richer understanding of social enterprise dynamics.

****5. Social Impact Measurement Tools:****

Collaborate with stakeholders and experts to develop and disseminate tools for social impact measurement. Identify best practices internationally and support measures for their utilization, ensuring social enterprises can effectively measure and communicate their impact.

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****6. Integration with Circular Economy and Bioeconomy:****

Align the proposal with the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy objectives, emphasizing the role of sorting facilities in handling diverse materials and encouraging social enterprises to participate actively in these sectors.

****7. Renewable Energy and Community Engagement:****

Explore opportunities for social enterprises to engage in renewable energy and community-led projects. Leverage sorting facilities as platforms for community involvement and wealth creation, aligning with the broader policy objectives related to climate action.

****8. Implementation and Monitoring:****

Establish a phased implementation plan for sorting facility investments and data collection initiatives. Set up mechanisms for ongoing monitoring to track the impact on social enterprises, data quality, and overall sector growth.

****9. Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement:****

Encourage collaboration between charities, government agencies, and private entities to create a comprehensive and inclusive approach. Stakeholder engagement will be vital for the success of the proposed initiatives.

****Conclusion:****

Investing in sorting facilities for charities presents a transformative opportunity to enhance data collection, supporting social enterprises in demonstrating their impact and contributing to the overall success of circular economy objectives. This proposal aligns with the policy's intent, driving transparency and innovation in Ireland's social enterprise landscape. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Title: Bridging the Gap: Government Investment in Charitable Circular Textile Sorting Centers for Climate Action

Executive Summary:*

Charity shops, integral to the circular economy, currently lack the resources needed for effective textile sorting. This proposal advocates for government-funded sorting centers run by charities or a consortium, addressing the challenges posed by the Waste Management Textiles Directive. The objective is to enhance circular activity, leveraging the expertise of charities. Additionally, the proposal aligns with the Climate Action Plan, emphasizing the vital role of social enterprises in achieving climate goals.

****1. Rationale:****

Charities possess unique knowledge and expertise in sorting and reselling textiles, aligning with the circular economy's principles. With the impending Waste Management Textiles Directive and separate collection laws, increased volumes of textiles will require efficient sorting operations.

****2. Proposed Solution: Government-Funded Sorting Centers:****

Advocate for investment in upscaling sorting operations within government-funded sorting centers. These centers, managed by charities or a group of charities, will streamline textile sorting, facilitating circular practices in handling clothing, shoes, bags, furniture, and books.

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****3. Benefits:****

- Mitigation of climate impact through enhanced circular activity.
- Increased job opportunities and skill development within social enterprises.
- Alignment with the Circular Economy Strategy 'Living More Use Less' 2022-2023, acknowledging the role of social enterprises in reuse and repair initiatives.

****4. Work Placement Schemes:****

Introduce work placement schemes within the sorting centers, providing valuable experience and employment opportunities. Explore the potential for increased social welfare payments for participants engaged in circular social enterprise activities.

****5. Policy Alignment:****

Connect the proposal with the Climate Action Plan's emphasis on social enterprises driving inclusive recovery and the green transition. Highlight the circular economy's role in reducing environmental impact and mention relevant EU proposals supporting extended producer responsibility for textiles.

****6. Implementation Steps:****

- Establish government-funded sorting centers in strategic locations.
- Collaborate with charities and social enterprises to ensure effective operation.
- Develop training programs and work placement initiatives for individuals involved in circular social enterprise activities.

****7. Measuring Success:****

- Monitor increased efficiency in textile sorting operations.
- Track the growth of circular activities within the social enterprise sector.
- Assess the impact on job creation and skill development.

****Conclusion:****

Investing in charity-run sorting centers aligns with climate action objectives, fostering circular practices and supporting social enterprises. This proposal aims to secure the necessary resources to propel charity shops into key players in achieving a sustainable, circular economy.

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