Clothes Aid aid Police
with clamp down on charity bag organised crime

Clothes Aid offer a genuine charity collection service throughout the UK and have raised over £8 million for some of the countries most renowned charities. Organised crime against charities threaten the future of this type of fundraising which is why Clothes Aid is very proud to have helped Derbyshire Police secure convictions against fraudsters caught stealing charity bags; a case that has been ongoing since 2010 and has now seen three arrests.

Arturas Krasauskas, a 27 year old man originally from Lithuania, was originally arrested in 2010 after being linked to a suspicious van in a Sainsbury’s car park in Buxton. An inspection of the van uncovered a large amount of charity bags full of donated clothing, which he was not licensed to collect. A second van traced to the same address in Manchester was searched by Police and also contained a large amount of stolen full charity bags, some of which belonged to Clothes Aid. Krasauskas left the country after being bailed and was arrested again after re entering the UK in March this year.

He pleaded guilty to the offence of conspiracy to steal and was sentenced to 20 months in prison at Derby Crown Court on 9th May 2014.

During this investigation Clothes Aid provided the police with a wealth of information surrounding the theft of charitable clothing donations across the country by organised gangs. Being able to share suspect information with local forces like Derbyshire Constabulary, who are proactively clamping down on this type of crime, is crucial to the continuation of authentic charity clothing collections. DC Gary Thomas of Derbyshire Constabulary, who led the investigation, commented:

“Due to the advice given by Clothes Aid, police were able to investigate this in a much more focused manor concentrating efforts on prosecuting the ring leaders rather than the foot soldiers who are out stealing. Many forces deal with this type of theft by way of fixed penalty tickets or cautions for theft by finding. Through our extensive enquires nationwide it appears that Derbyshire Constabulary is one of the first forces to investigate this type of theft as organised crime. This approach was greatly was assisted by the intel supplied by Clothes Aid.”

Krasauskas is the second man to be jailed in connection with this same offence. Earlier this year, Gintas Simkus, 40, was locked up for three years for conspiracy to steal and money laundering. Simkus denied both charges but was convicted by a Derby Crown Court jury after a five day trial.

DC Gary Thomas also states, “The knock-on effect of this type of crime is that it will discourage members
of the public from donating their much-needed unwanted clothing, which can be the lifeblood of charities across the country. I would urge people to continue their good work helping both local and national charities and not be deterred by the actions of these criminals.”

Through sheer diligence and perseverance from a growing number of constabularies across the UK, like Derbyshire, and information provided by official charity collectors such as Clothes Aid, a no tolerance stance is being established on fraud and theft affecting charities. Clothes Aid will continue to work with the Police and other agencies such as UKBA and Trading Standards to tackle this type of crime.

The outcome of this case will serve as a strong deterrent to any other potential criminals in the area, as well as across the country, cutting down on the millions of pounds that charities loose out on every year through theft of donations.

**Clothes Aid gives the following advice for people wanting to donate to charity from their doorstep:**

- Always look for the Fundraising Standard Board’s (FRSB) ‘Give with Confidence’ tick logo
- Look for a registered charity number and, if in doubt, check on the Charity Commission website: [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)
- Look for a landline number and try calling it. If there is only a mobile number, this should raise suspicion. The Clothes Aid Helpline answers over 20,000 calls each year and is open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
- Legally, charity bags must say how much they will give to charity per tonne. Look out for this statement.
- All collectors, by law, have to have a license from local authorities before collecting in any area.
  
  If you are in any doubt, contact your local council to confirm their presence.

If you have any concerns about authenticity over charity bags and clothes collections, contact our Helpline. For more information regarding collections, please call the Clothes Aid helpline on 020 7288 8545 or [www.clothesaid.co.uk](http://www.clothesaid.co.uk). For Clothes Aid press enquiries, please contact Emma O’Leary on 020 7288 8528 or eo@clothesaid.co.uk. Follow us on Twitter (@ClothesAid) and ‘like’ us on Facebook (Clothes Aid) to show your support to our UK partner charities.

**Notes to Editor:**

Clothes Aid is a fully licensed fundraiser, compliant with all UK Charity Commission regulations concerning the collection and sale of used clothing. Founded in 1996, Clothes Aid is now one of the largest commercial clothing collection companies in the UK who pride themselves on being fully transparent and follows industry and sector Best Practice at all times. Clothes Aid is a social business that requires zero investment from charity partners with each charity receiving a contractually agreed percentage of profit, which resides between 84-95%, depending on each charity’s licenses and collection overheads. The modest profit remaining is reinvested to aid growth to generate more funds for charities. Clothes Aid collection teams are fully uniformed, carry ID cards with fully branded livery and collects from over 45,000 households every week across the UK. Clothes Aid fundraising for some of the biggest UK charities, including NSPCC, Make-A-Wish Foundation UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, Children’s Hospice Association Scotland and other regional charities, and has raised over £8 million. Clothes Aid bags carry the ‘Give with Confidence’ tick of approval from the Fundraising Standards Board, a stamp of reassurance for members of the public thinking of donating to charity. Working closely with WRAP, Clothes Aid have signed up to a commitment to measure and report the environmental ‘footprint’ of clothing throughout its life, and to take action to reduce the impact by 2020. The Love
Your Clothes branding forms part of this awareness campaign.