

HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS ACT 1939

GUIDANCE NOTES

1. What does the House to House Collections Act apply to?

The Act applies to collections for charitable purposes. This means any charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purpose.

2. What is a collection?

A collection means an appeal to the public, made by means of visits from house to house, to give, whether for consideration or not, money or other property.

3. Who is the promoter of the collection?

The promoter must hold a licence from the licensing authority. A promoter is a person who causes others to act, **whether for remuneration or otherwise**, as collectors for the purposes of the collection. The promoter must hold a licence from the licensing authority

4. How long is a licence granted for?

Licences may be granted for periods not exceeding 12 months.

5. Can a licence be refused or revoked?

There are six grounds (listed at section 2(3) of the Act) on which a licence may be refused or revoked and there is a right of appeal to the Secretary of State against such refusal etc. within 14 days of notice of decision.

6. Are there any rules to say how a house to house collection should be conducted?

The House to House Collections Regulations 1947 as amended set out both the method of application for licences and the manner in which collections are carried out. The Act and the Regulations also comprise the licensing code for house to house collections.

7. Are the rules concerning House to House Collections likely to change in the near future?

The Act and the Regulations are supposed to be repealed and replaced by the Charities Act 1992 but there is no sign of this happening in the foreseeable future

8. Are there any duties imposed on a collector before the collection starts?

Only that a collector must ensure that such a licence exists.