



'Making a Mark'

Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

Big Issue Invest

Created by social entrepreneurs, for social entrepreneurs, Big Issue Invest is the world's first 'Social Merchant Bank' and a steadfast champion of social enterprise. We extend The Big Issue's mission by financing the growth of sustainable social enterprises and charities across the UK.

<p>We invest between £20,000 and £3,000,000 in social enterprises and charities</p> 	<p>Since 2005 we have invested in over 330 Organisations</p> 	<p>We currently manage or advise on £170 Million worth of social funds</p> 
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We are also bringing the mainstream to social investment with the UK Social Bond Fund, in partnership with Columbia Threadneedle, and the UK Equity Impact – Employment Opportunities Fund, in collaboration with Aberdeen Standard Investments. Big Issue Invest is also helping to pave the way for 3.4 million social housing tenants to potentially improve their credit, by partnering with Experian on The Rental Exchange.

The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to answer a set of social impact questions, which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives.

Below are examples of how **Big Issue Invest** is Making a Mark, striving to create a positive impact on people and planet.

Email: enquiries@bigissueinvest.com
Website: www.bigissueinvest.com/
Phone: 020 7526 3234



Providing finance to support social ventures

The Big Issue Group's mission is to dismantle poverty by creating opportunity, through self-help, social trading and business solutions. We support this mission by providing finance to social ventures that help tackle poverty and inequality.

2017 /18 was an important year in the company's development, with new funds and programmes coming on line and bringing the business closer to a scale that will sustain our activities for the long term. In the process, we achieved significant milestones in terms of the amount and pace of our social enterprise investing activities, while the investees and other partners of BII are demonstrating substantial social outcomes of which we can be very proud.

Example measures of support provided

In 2017-18, we invested £10.7m in 68 organisations and currently have investments in 150 organisations across the UK. This is a significant increase in investment activity compared to prior years.

£5m of the portfolio is invested in 63 organisations working in the 20% most deprived areas of the UK. We have invested £125k and dedicated a further £10m to payment-by-results investments that reward providers and investors for social outcomes achieved.



Supporting smaller social enterprises

We make loans to support smaller scale social enterprises with operating and capital investment needs.

During the period to 31st March 2018, we disbursed £7m to 68 clients. This represents a significant increase in activity from the prior year when we disbursed £2.7 million to 27 clients. The gross loan portfolio (before loan loss reserves) as at 31st March 2018 was £ 13m, up from £8.2 million in the prior year. We anticipate disbursing a further £10m in the year to 31st March 2019, which will take the portfolio above £20m.

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