

## ‘Making a Mark’

### Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

## Social Enterprise Mark CIC

Social Enterprise Mark CIC is an award-winning international social enterprise accreditation body, which recognises and builds the capabilities of social enterprises as competitive, sustainable businesses, dedicated to maximising social impact.

We have over ten years’ experience of providing clear standards for the social enterprise sector, defining what it means to be a genuine social enterprise.



Through a growing portfolio of externally assessed accreditations, we provide a supportive pathway to standards of good practice and excellence, which supports social enterprises to prove their credentials as commercially sustainable businesses that are creating real social impact.

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 **Social Enterprise Mark CIC** is Making a Mark, striving to create a positive impact on people and planet.

### Championing social enterprise on a global scale

We act as a global champion of credible standards for social enterprise, and advocate for greater recognition of the vital role social enterprises play in creating a fairer economy.

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We strive to broaden the reach, awareness/understanding and adoption of the social enterprise business model by acting as a voice for the social enterprise sector.

Instead of rowing back at the start of the Covid outbreak, we focused on creating more international partnerships to promote and strengthen the social enterprise business model at a global level. This included the launch of strategic partnerships with countries that want to use accreditation to help build a better future, including the establishment of capacity building programmes in the Middle East and Ireland. These developments provide a template for further sustainable international development to support the growing global movement for more resilient and equitable economic systems.

## **Acting as a voice for the social enterprise sector**

Over the last year, we have played an active role in national campaigning for more tailored government support to ensure social enterprises can survive the Covid crisis and contribute to the development of a stronger, fairer and more resilient economy.

For example, as part of a national coalition of social enterprise sector bodies, we have taken a lead on work to address the issues social enterprises have encountered when trying to access government emergency finance from mainstream banks. Our lobbying led the British Business Bank to explicitly state that certain social enterprises are eligible for recovery loan schemes, which will hopefully improve access to emergency finance to support them to recover from Covid-19.

## **Strengthening our social enterprise community**

In 2020/21 our network of accredited social enterprise grew by 12%, and since the start of 2020, it has grown by 20%. This demonstrates a continued increase in the number of organisations seeking to prove their social enterprise credentials.

Our 2021 stakeholder survey showed generally high levels of customer satisfaction, with 9/10 respondents saying they would recommend our accreditation to other social enterprises.

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