# Lisa McLaughlin pioneers sustainable interiors by repurposing waste lint after career change



In a remarkable turn of events following a personal tragedy, Lisa McLaughlin, a Derry-based entrepreneur, has embarked on a transformative journey that reflects both resilience and innovation. After the death of her father, McLaughlin made the bold decision to leave her 20-year civil service career to pursue her passion for design and sustainability. Her venture focuses on repurposing discarded waste lint—an initiative that not only champions eco-friendliness but also aims to create high-quality materials for various applications in home and office interiors.

McLaughlin’s company, Clúmh, epitomises the entrepreneurial spirit that has flourished even in challenging times. As the founder of this start-up, she is pioneering the use of waste lint as a soundproofing and artistic material, effectively turning a seemingly useless by-product into a valuable resource. This innovative approach aligns well with a growing demand for sustainable products, and McLaughlin hopes to tap into markets that prioritise eco-conscious choices.

The concept of using waste lint is groundbreaking in its own right, but it also taps into a broader trend witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Northern Ireland businesses have adapted and thrived, finding new paths to success by pivoting their models towards sustainability and community support. Similarly, McLaughlin’s transition from civil service to entrepreneurship has resonated deeply with local consumers who are increasingly favouring products that are environmentally friendly and made with care.

Moreover, McLaughlin's recent participation in the Guildhall Craft Fair in Derry highlights her commitment to local engagement and community-driven business models. Her brand, boey + becci, has also garnered attention for its eco-friendly children’s bedding and accessories, crafted from organic fabrics. This dual focus on both innovative materials and sustainable practices reflects a burgeoning movement among female entrepreneurs in Ireland, many of whom are part of an all-island network fostering collaboration and growth.

Indeed, McLaughlin’s journey is not just a personal story but a representation of a larger narrative among women-led businesses that are redefining success and impact. As she pushes forward, her efforts can inspire others to explore sustainable practices within their entrepreneurial ventures, enriching both their communities and the environment. With plans to expand her product lines and increase brand visibility, McLaughlin stands as a testament to the potential of creativity and sustainability—a beacon for future generations eager to make their mark in the business landscape.

Bringing unique ideas to life amidst the backdrop of an evolving economy, McLaughlin’s story exemplifies the grit and determination characteristic of small business owners in Northern Ireland—and serves as a reminder that even in the face of adversity, innovation can flourish, creating opportunities for both individuals and their communities.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/northern-ireland/how-ni-entrepreneur-hopes-to-make-a-mint-from-lint-i-left-my-job-civil-service-job-after-20-years-to-follow-my-passion/a1174027635.html), [[3]](https://www.irishexaminer.com/business/companies/arid-41574379.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/northern-ireland/how-ni-entrepreneur-hopes-to-make-a-mint-from-lint-i-left-my-job-civil-service-job-after-20-years-to-follow-my-passion/a1174027635.html), [[2]](https://www.derrystrabane.com/news/boey-becci-excited-for-craft-fair-debut-in-home-town), [[5]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/roaring-trade-the-small-northern-ireland-businesses-thriving-in-lockdown/39765976.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.derrystrabane.com/news/boey-becci-excited-for-craft-fair-debut-in-home-town), [[3]](https://www.irishexaminer.com/business/companies/arid-41574379.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/northern-ireland/how-ni-entrepreneur-hopes-to-make-a-mint-from-lint-i-left-my-job-civil-service-job-after-20-years-to-follow-my-passion/a1174027635.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.derrystrabane.com/news/boey-becci-excited-for-craft-fair-debut-in-home-town> - Lisa McLaughlin, founder of boey + becci, an eco-friendly children's bedding and accessories business, is set to debut at the Guildhall Craft Fair in Derry. After a 20-year civil service career, she pursued her passion for design, establishing the brand during the COVID-19 pandemic. Boey + becci focuses on sustainable products made from organic fabrics, offering items like quilts, bedding, and baby changing bags. The business has received significant local support and aims to expand its product range and brand awareness.
3. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/business/companies/arid-41574379.html> - Lisa McLaughlin, founder of Clúmh, a Derry-based start-up, is part of an all-island network of female entrepreneurs who recently visited the United States. The network aims to foster connections and growth among women-led businesses across Ireland. Clúmh focuses on transforming discarded waste lint into sustainable materials and products, highlighting the innovative approaches of female entrepreneurs in Northern Ireland.
4. <https://daro.ulster.ac.uk/newsletter/2015-nov-in-the-spotlight-new-design-2017> - Lisa McCausland, a Belfast-based designer and entrepreneur, created DogEase, a medical pet suit made from soft, stretchy bamboo fabric. The suit is designed to cover wounds, preventing dogs from disturbing stitches or licking affected areas. Inspired by her own dog's surgery, Lisa developed the product after consulting with veterinarians and testing various designs. DogEase suits are available in multiple sizes and have been well-received by local vets and customers.
5. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/roaring-trade-the-small-northern-ireland-businesses-thriving-in-lockdown/39765976.html> - The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unexpected sales booms for some Northern Ireland businesses. Zara McLaughlin, a ceramics student at Ulster University, launched Zara Ceramics from her grandparents' garage in Ballymoney. The business has gained popularity on Instagram, and Zara is considering expanding her team. This trend highlights the resilience and adaptability of small businesses in Northern Ireland during challenging times.
6. <https://www.derrydaily.net/2024/10/22/family-owned-derry-store-to-close-after-111-years-in-business/> - McLaughlin's Hardware, a family-owned store in Derry, is set to close after 111 years of operation. The McLaughlin brothers announced the sale of the building at 40-44 William Street, expressing gratitude for the community's support over the years. The closure marks the end of an era for one of Derry's longest-running family businesses, offering an opportunity for new ownership in a prime location.
7. <https://www.derryjournal.com/news/people/mclaughlins-hardware-to-close-at-end-of-november-as-family-sells-iconic-derry-premises-4834365> - McLaughlin's Hardware, an iconic Derry institution, will close its doors towards the end of November 2024. After 111 years of continuous operation under the same family, the McLaughlin brothers confirmed the sale of the building at 40-44 William Street. They expressed mixed emotions about the closure but are grateful for the community's unwavering support throughout the years. The decision marks the end of an era for one of Derry's longest-running family businesses.