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Date: 04/04/2023



Motion Title: Amazon Purchase Policy for Stirling Students' Union

Motion Resolves:

That Stirling Students' Union will cease all purchases from Amazon.com Incorporated (otherwise known as Amazon UK Services LTD.) unless the product cannot be purchased from any other company or provider. Additionally, the Students' Union will encourage Clubs and Societies to purchase items from other retailers where possible and when it is financially feasible for the society.

In the case that Amazon.com Incorporated is the only suitable retailer, then a purchase can be made from there.

Motion Notes:

As a Students' Union, we actively work to support environmental causes and ensure we play a role in protecting our planet and people. Amazon.com Incorporated is a company which actively opposes our values, both environmentally and ethically.

As a company, Amazon.com has climate emissions are similar to Denmark's (approximately 85%) and grew by 19% in 2020 the same year which saw global emissions across the world fall. Furthermore, it was found in 2019 Amazon generated 465 million pounds of plastic waste and in 2018 released 44.4 million tons of carbon dioxide¹.

In addition to this, Amazon.com have been known to oppose trade unions and the unionization of their workers, promoting a workplace environment which is unsafe for its' workers and cuts corners in regards to health and safety legislation².

For example; during the pandemic workers were informed that if they did not come into work while waiting for Covid test results (at the time, took a week to come in) then they would not be paid for that time as found by GMB Union³.

It is supported by the UK campaign group Ethical Consumer that Amazon.com has a poor track record for environmental issues such as; climate change, conflict materials and disrespecting workers' rights in their supply chains⁴.

Motion Believes:

As a Students' Union committed to reduce our Union and University's impact on the environment, purchasing goods from Amazon.com Incorporated is a direct contradiction to our Union's sustainable values.

Additionally, by purchasing products and goods (which are readily available from other more ethical and sustainable providers), our Union, whether meaningfully or not, is supporting one of the world's worst companies for supporting people's working rights and our environment.

¹ Green America, 10 Reasons Not to Shop Amazon, <https://www.greenamerica.org/blog/10-reasons-not-shop-amazon>

² Green America, 10 Reasons Not to Shop Amazon, <https://www.greenamerica.org/blog/10-reasons-not-shop-amazon>

³ BBC, Amazon accused of Covid failings as Prime Day begins, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-54523156>

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