



Environmental Audit Committee

John Boumphrey
Vice President and UK & Ireland Country Manager
Amazon.com Inc.
1 Principal Place
Worship Street
London EC2A 2FA

Sent by email only

15th April 2024

Subject: E-waste and the Circular Economy

Dear Mr Boumphrey –

I was surprised and disappointed to hear that there was no person within Amazon's UK and Ireland operations who was in a position to appear in front of the Committee on 17th April at its evidence session organised to discuss the issue of electronic waste and the circular economy and progress on the recommendations made by the Committee in its 2020 report on the issue.

In 2019, 44% of products bought on Amazon worldwide were electronics.¹ It is the UK's primary marketplace for consumer electronic goods.² This makes it all the more concerning that there is, as your team has explained to Committee staff, no-one at senior level available to discuss the steps Amazon is taking to reduce the environmental impact its sold electronics are making and the merits of the recent proposals in this area made by the UK Government. This raises inevitable questions as to whether the issue is being addressed with sufficient seriousness at an appropriately senior level in your organisation.

I would be willing to accept a written submission from Amazon to inform our work if an in-person appearance by an Amazon representative is indeed not possible. The questions to which the Committee would like Amazon to respond, not later than 30th April, are annexed to this letter.

In the interests of transparency, this letter will be published.

Yours sincerely,

¹ [74 Amazon Statistics You Must Know: 2024 Market Share Analysis & Data - Financesonline.com](#)

² [Amazon in the UK: Market Dominance, Competitors, Top Categories | ECDB.com \(ecommercedb.com\)](#)



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Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP
Chairman, Environmental Audit Committee

Annex:

1. What steps is Amazon taking in its UK market to reduce the environmental impact of its sold electronics?
2. Why is the Amazon Environmental Assurance and Protection team longer in operation, and why has the role of World Wide Director of Environmental Affairs been removed? What arrangements are being made to address environmental issues at senior level in Amazon's UK operations?
3. In Amazon's view, how can secondary markets for electrical goods be improved? What incentives are required to implement these markets?
4. How feasible will it be to make distributors collect e-waste?
 - a. Does Amazon provide a collection scheme to collect e-waste similar to that of organisations such as Currys?
 - b. If not, why? Are there plans to do so in the future?
5. Are UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) collection targets achievable? Have they become more achievable since 2020?
6. In Amazon's view, what challenges do UK producer compliance schemes and WEEE reprocessors face in meeting the collection targets?
7. Has the UK Government considered all essential aspects of tackling WEEE in its consultation?
 - a. Does Amazon agree with the proposed additional measures being placed on online marketplaces?