



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

11th August 2021

Jean Contrevent,

RE: AMAZON WASTE.

Thank you for your recent email in respect of reports that Amazon is destroying unsold products in the UK. I have read your comments with interest and concern.

It is my understanding that my ministerial colleagues are aware of reports of Amazon destroying unsold products and are considering whether there needs to be a change in the law. The Environment Secretary, the Rt. Hon George Eustice MP, has said that the Government is also in talks with Amazon about these extraordinary findings.

Businesses that handle waste, including companies like Amazon, are obliged to follow the waste hierarchy, under the *Waste Regulations 2011*, which requires action to prevent waste as the priority option. Failure to meet the legal obligation to take all reasonable endeavours to apply these steps can lead to enforcement action from the Environment Agency in England.

It is imperative we end the throwaway culture and recycle more of our waste. I would like to assure you that I am committed to creating a more circular economy for our waste and resources, and by 2035 the Government wants to be recycling at least 65 percent of our municipal waste with a maximum of 10 percent going to landfill. Equally, I do not want to see good food go to waste. I am therefore pleased that the Government supports the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and its work with retailers and other food businesses who play a key role in influencing household food waste through interventions such as pack sizing and labelling. These measures all help consumers to buy what they need and use what they buy. Ministers are also supporting the *Courtauld 2025 Commitment*, delivered by WRAP, which aims to reduce UK food waste by 20 percent per capita by 2025, based on a 2015 baseline.

I understand that current regulations require sellers of electrical equipment to offer a free take-back service for waste electricals, or join the 'Distributor Takeback Scheme' to help fund local authority recycling services. Ministers are looking at the regulations to see how they can make sure all retailers take greater responsibility for electricals. This could include increased doorstep collections and strengthened takeback obligations placed on retailers and internet sellers.

More widely, through the *25 Year Environment Plan*, the Government is committed to leaving the environment in a better state than we inherited it. Ministers will help do this by transforming the way we use our waste and resources, and by 2042 they want to have eliminated all avoidable plastic waste, with all avoidable waste being stopped by 2050.



Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**