



Environmental Audit Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Carol Kane & Mahmud Kamani
Boohoo / PrettyLittleThing
49-51 Dale Street
Manchester
M1 2HF

2 November 2018

Dear Ms Kane & Mr Kamani,

RE: Environmental impact of the fashion industry – request for information

The cross-party Environmental Audit Committee is conducting an inquiry into the sustainability of the Fashion Industry and I am writing to request written evidence from Boohoo and PrettyLittleThing to inform our recommendations to Government.

The Committee heard shocking evidence this week in Parliament that the buying practices of some online retailers may be putting UK clothing manufacturers in a position where they can only afford to pay garment workers illegally low wages. Concerns were also raised about the low-quality of some 'fast fashion' garments and the excessive waste that this business model is generating.

The Committee will be considering policy recommendations to reduce these harms and would welcome your response to the following questions:

1. How do you currently ensure that all the garment workers producing the clothes you sell are paid at least the minimum wage? Do you allow your buyers to order garments from UK suppliers at any price, or do you educate them on the cost of UK labour and material so that they are aware when a price is 'too cheap' to be made without breaking employment law?
2. What is the average life-cycle of the garments you sell? What design and testing processes do you undertake to determine the quality of new products?
3. What steps are you taking to reduce the environmental and social impact of the products you sell? Do you audit this? How do you measure progress towards reducing the environmental impact of the products you sell?
4. What recycled materials, if any, do you use in your products? What could the Government do to encourage greater use of recycled materials in clothing production?

5. Are your companies taking action to reduce the risk of microplastics being washed into the ocean? If so, what actions have you taken?
6. Are you taking any action to encourage reuse, repair and/or recycling of clothing? What do you recommend your customers do to dispose of your products responsibly?
7. Do you incinerate unsold or returned stock?
8. Do you use supply chain contracts which provide for rebate payments from manufacturers to your company?

We would appreciate a response by **15 November 2018**; thank you for your attention in this matter. Please note that in the interest of transparency the Environmental Audit Committee intends to publish the responses it receives, including nil returns. We may invite selected retailers to give evidence in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Creagh', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mary Creagh MP
Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee