

Annual Student Meeting (Additional Meeting July 2024)

Motion 2: Should the Students' Union only sell and distribute pre-packaged drinks from local businesses?

Proposer: Imal Ahmadzai

Seconder: Maeidul Khondaker, Christopher Tenecela

What do you want?

The QMSU to only sell and distribute pre-packaged drinks from local businesses. We believe that the QMSU* should only sell or distribute pre-packaged drinks** if they meet the following conditions:

The drinks must be produced in the United Kingdom (UK) or the European Economic Area (EEA).

The drinks must have been first formulated or invented in the UK or EEA.

The producing and distribution of the drinks must be by companies that are headquartered in the UK or EEA.

This motion must be actioned as soon as contracts providing QMSU with non-conforming drinks expire or QMSU's stock of non-conforming drinks runs out or by the 1st of January 2025 – whichever is soonest.

If the QMSU holds non-conforming drink stock at any point after the 1st of January 2025, it must be donated to the nearest available food bank(s).

*The term 'QMSU' refers to the QMSU Registered Charity, QMSU Services Limited, and any successor or directly linked entities.

**The term 'pre-packaged drinks' refers to any drink that was not produced within QMSU commercial venues. Therefore, this motion would not affect the production of drinks made by staff within the venue, such as coffee or tea.

Why do you want it?

We want the QMSU to support local businesses, make more ethical purchasing choices, and make conscious efforts to help reduce all types of pollution associated with the soft drinks industry.

What impact will this have?

The conditions laid out by this motion would require the QMSU to move away from selling and distributing pre-packaged drinks from some highly polluting, large soft drinks producing organisations such as Coca-Cola and PepsiCo.

This would lead to more ethical purchasing choices from the QMSU. For example, larger, well-known drinks companies, such as Coca-Cola and PepsiCo are known to be amongst the UK's biggest packaging polluters – Coca-Cola being responsible for 17% of branded plastic pollution according to a 2023 report [1].

Smaller brands typically produce less waste and pollution and are often more ethical in their investment and business practices. By removing the big brands, it would make space on shelves for smaller ones, allowing

many students who make conscious efforts to avoid drinking products from bigger name brands to have more of a choice in QMSU outlets.

1. Ahmed R. Coca-Cola, McDonald's and Pepsico named UK's biggest packaging polluters [Internet]. Guardian News and Media; 2023 [cited 2024 Jun 10]. Available from: [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jul/21/coca-cola-mcdonalds-pepsico-named-uk-biggest-packaging-polluters-surfers-against-sewage#:~:text=Coca%2DCola%20was%20found%20to,%25\)%20of%20branded%20plastic%20pollution.](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jul/21/coca-cola-mcdonalds-pepsico-named-uk-biggest-packaging-polluters-surfers-against-sewage#:~:text=Coca%2DCola%20was%20found%20to,%25)%20of%20branded%20plastic%20pollution.)