



student action on world poverty and the environment

Melvyn Cornish  
University Secretary  
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Edinburgh  
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People & Planet Society  
The Societies Centre  
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Tuesday, 08 May 2007

Dear Mr Cornish,

I am writing to request a current breakdown of the University's investment/endowment portfolio and any recent reports of engagement made by the University's fund managers with firms in which we invest.

People & Planet is the largest UK network of student campaigners. People & Planet run national campaigns on issues surrounding the environment, social justice, poverty and peace. The Fairtrade Universities campaign and a 'Go Green' campaign encouraging sustainable universities have been particularly successful in recent years.

A growing number of universities are adopting so called 'ethical investment' or 'socially-responsible investment (SRI)' policies with the aim of screening investments on a criteria adopted by the university community. A process may be set up where individuals or groups can challenge investments that they see as undesirable or hypocritical. For instance, the University of Edinburgh accepted a challenge from staff in its medic school doing research into cancer to disinvest significant holdings in a number of tobacco companies.

We are keen to obtain a full list of our university's investments as soon as possible. We hope that under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this information should be easily obtainable.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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Any Body

Convenor, People & Planet Edinburgh