

Contact details	
Your name (Proposer of the policy)	William Styles
Your email	william.styles@students.plymouth.ac.uk
The name of a person who supports the policy (Seconder of the policy)	Vivian Hocking, Katherine Collins, India Ellis, Jean-Michel Evelyn, Owain Gullam
Seconder's email	vivian.hocking@students.plymouth.ac.uk katherine.colling-7@students.plymouth.ac.uk indiaellis12@gmail.com jean-michel.evelyn@students.plymouth.ac.uk owain.gullam@students.plymouth.ac.uk

Student Impact	
Have you consulted students about your proposal? Please explain how many students you have engaged with and how.	Union Council and a large amount of student feedback has been considered at the UC meeting and throughout the motion creation.
How does your proposal impact the students at the University of Plymouth, what difference will it make to students?	It will clearly signify that Students are heard and their wishes are acted upon and signify to companies that Students cannot be exploited without consequence.

Policy Proposal	
The Union Notes (Facts) This section should include facts, not reflection or opinions. Please provide references where possible.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Student's Union is Democratic. 2. The Student's Union is Student Led. 3. Clever Student Lets (CSL) has been the focal point of student outrage regarding letting agencies particularly during the lockdowns and ensuing COVID-19 pandemic. 4. Feedback given to Students thus far on progress relating to the matter has shown a dissatisfaction within the Student body. 5. That there is an existing 3-year contract between CSL and the SU involving (in part) the exchange of funds for promotion. 6. That reputation with other sponsors has been highlighted in discussions with the SU CEO as a primary reason not to terminate this contract before its term. 7. "The University of Plymouth Students' Union" (A Private Limited Company by Guarantee no.10676070) is facing financial hardship. 	

The Union Believes (Opinions/Beliefs) This section requires reflection on the facts stated in 'The Union Notes'

1. That Students should feel heard by their Union.
2. That the purpose of a Union is to stand together against exploitative forces.
3. That CSL has shown itself in recent years to be partly, if not largely, exploitative.
4. That trespass against our members and their rights cannot be tolerated and must illicit a consequence.

The Union Resolves (Actions) Here you will describe the action you want to be taken, be specific.

As Union Council has been reminded that policy is considered from the Union Council by the Board of Trustees and is not automatically approved, the Union Council resolves to "request and advise our Union" to;

1. **Terminate the existing contract with CSL effective immediately.**
2. Not engage in marketing contracts which extend for a period greater than 1 year.
3. Ensuring discussion amongst the ~~Union Council~~ **Sabbatical Officers** regarding potential UPSU advertorials in which Students are the product, where UPSU would be entering into a long term promotional contract.

Appendices/supporting information Please include any supporting information relevant to your motion, this could include; consideration of how you would achieve any points in 'The Union Resolves', links to news articles or online publications

Excerpt of minutes of 9th February 2021

Accommodations Proposal

Will Styles, Part-time Postgraduate Rep summarised previous discussions, including the fact that students expressed dissatisfaction with Clever Student Lets and how they have dealt with issues, both before and after lockdown and with COVID restrictions.

Will Styles gave an overview of the policy proposal.

The Chair noted that it was not appropriate to refer to members of staff in a Policy Proposal. Either by name or position as they do not have the right of reply. Will apologised.

The Chair also pointed out that, as has been mentioned at this meeting previously, Union Council does not have the executive power in relation to the resolves in this policy proposal. Will acknowledged that he understood and is only asking for it to be considered.

Emi Dowse, VP Education explained that it was not the remit of any Part-time Officers or School Reps but she suggested that an amendment be made so that the Sabbatical Officers be given the responsibility to feed into those decisions on behalf of the students they represent.

Verity Lemm, VP Sport agreed with the suggestion of that amendment and added there have been things that Officers have wanted to change about this decision making

Viv Hocking School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics Rep agreed with the amendment as a seconder, Will contacted all other seconders to ask their view.

Takudzwa Mawera, Part-time BAME Officer also agreed that it is important for high level representatives to have oversight of this issue and its one that needs to be rectified immediately. However, Takudzwa questioned if terminating the contract would be helpful to students.

Emi Dowse explained that this has been an ongoing issue and she had met with the previous CEO of Clever Student Lets, along with the UPSU CEO to discuss students concerns. Then in December Emi and Antony Blackshaw, Interim CEO, met with the new CEO of CSL and mutually agreed to pause advertising and payments until January whilst the contract was reviewed.

Emi Dowse then updated that UPSU have mutually agreed with Clever Student Lets to abandon the contract, so they will not require that UPSU to promote them and UPSU would not pursue CSL for payment. This is confidential information until the point at which it is formally signed off and announced.

Emi Dowse also added that UPSU would like to keep dialogue open with CSL to continue supporting students that are still with them that are experiencing problems.

Will Styles noted that all seconders supported the friendly amendment which will read;
Ensuring discussion amongst the ~~Union Council~~ Sabbatical Officers regarding potential UPSU advertorials in which Students are the product, where UPSU would be entering into a long term promotional contract.

Verity Lemm suggested that the remit of the Officers could be more than a discussion. Will asked if the Officers would have the authority to have more authority in that situation.

Verity noted that in previous years contracts did go through the Executive Groups which does include the Sabbatical Officers. It was left that further amendments could be made in future, if necessary.

Owain, Gullam, Part-time Welfare Officer noted that Sabbatical Officers will be able to respond a lot quicker than Union Council but if things do slip through the net and are not favourable to

students. Owain questioned if could it be added that the decision is brought to Union Council for feedback afterwards

Will Styles pointed out the policy proposal seeks that the Sabbatical Officers are notified so they would not miss it and felt that amendment to be unnecessary

Takudzwa Mawera questioned that as it is passed over to Officers now, if Part-time officers will be kept in the loop whilst the decision making process is happening and not have information withheld from them.

Verity Lemm pointed out that Sabbatical Officers do report and update this meeting and are transparent with work, if students do think they are not being given information they need, then they are well within their rights to ask about it.

Viv Hocking acknowledged that, in his opinion Sabbatical Officers never seek to intentionally mislead or withhold information and staff and Officers have been forthcoming with information in his experience.

Emi Dowse asked for clarification of what a long-term contract was in the context of the policy resolves. Will Styles noted in the context of the rest of the motion that would be one year.

Union Council voted for the policy proposal, including the friendly amendment For: 20

Against: 2

Abstentions: 3

The policy proposal regarding Accommodation Sponsorship was passed.