

Mr Simon Birkett  
Under the auspices of The  
Knightsbridge Association  
6 Montpelier Street  
London SW7 1EZ

Dear Mr Birkett,

**How can the DfT consider it is making reasonable efforts to meet EU legal limits for air quality throughout the UK (indeed to take "very seriously" the threat of EU legal action) when the only criteria it seems to use for assessing measures to mitigate air quality exceedances are "cost benefit ratios"?**

Thank you for your e-mail of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, in which you asked the above question.

New and existing measures to mitigate air pollution are assessed against a variety of criteria. Clearly, measures that are 'cost-beneficial' are preferable, as they offer both the desired improvements and value for money.

As you rightly point out, though, the UK has a legal obligation to achieve EU targets for key pollutants. This is an obligation that we take very seriously. For this reason, if further measures are required above and beyond 'cost-beneficial' ones, we would consider those that are most 'cost-effective'.

I trust that this answers your question. Once again, thank you for your message.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Gilheany

Environmental Policy Advisor