

## Policy and Partnerships

Simon Birkett  
Principal Contact  
Campaign for Clean Air in London  
The Knightsbridge Association  
6 Montpelier Street  
London SW7 1EZ

City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
Minicom: 020 7983 4458  
Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

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**Your ref:**

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Dear Simon,

Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Mayor of London and myself on construction for the London 2012 Olympics.

The Olympic Delivery Agency (ODA) has committed to implementing the London Best Practice Guidance on reducing dust and emissions from construction and demolition as part of its Sustainable Development Strategy. This commitment is reflected in the ODA's Code of Construction Practice, an approved planning document.

Following the launch of the new accreditation scheme to cut emissions from construction and demolition sites in London in March 2008, further information on the process for accrediting emissions abatement technologies has been provided to equipment suppliers. The accreditation scheme is being run by the Energy Saving Trust (EST) and will provide development and construction companies (including the ODA) with a list of suitable devices that can be fitted to the exhausts of construction machines in order to cut emissions by a minimum of 85 per cent. This list of suitable devices is expected to be ready from end of June, after which the ODA (with assistance from the EST) will be able to identify the type and number of retrofit units (& timescales) required.

The ODA's Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) includes measures to mitigate and monitor the effects of construction activities. This is supported by the ODA's Dust Monitoring Scheme which includes monitoring of dust and PM10 and is in compliance with the Best Practice Guidance for a high risk site. Independent air quality monitoring is being carried out by the local boroughs, and can be seen on the London Air Quality Network website at [www.londonair.org.uk](http://www.londonair.org.uk), which is sponsored by the Mayor, and the national air quality archive at [www.airquality.co.uk](http://www.airquality.co.uk).

In addition, the ODA is using ultra-low sulphur diesel for site vehicles and has an aspiration to transport 50 per cent of materials used during construction by rail or water. The commitment to achieving this target is evident in the recent award of the concrete and aggregate contracts that have exceeded this target.

There is some guidance on environmental monitoring in the "London Best Practice Guidance: The control of dust and emissions from construction and demolition". Further guidance on air quality monitoring is available from Defra, in Annex 1 of the LAQM Technical Guidance notes

(available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/local/guidance/pdf/laqm-tg03.pdf>, although a new version is due to be released for consultation soon), and through the FAQ section of defra's monitoring helpdesk for local authorities ([http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/kb.php?sub\\_zone\\_id=2&action=displaysubzone](http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/kb.php?sub_zone_id=2&action=displaysubzone)).

The Mayor is passionately committed to improving air quality. We have a legal obligation to work towards the National Air Quality Strategy objectives. Most are met in London, with the exception of nitrogen dioxide and particulates (and ozone, which is a regional pollutant). We are working with the ODA and other relevant bodies to ensure that emissions of these pollutants and their pre-cursors are minimised, and that exposure to high levels of pollution is reduced.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Legge".

Sarah Legge  
Principal Policy Adviser – Air Quality