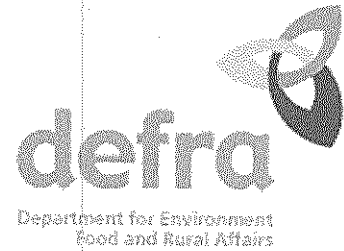


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21 July 2008

From Jonathan Shaw MP
Minister for Marine, Landscape & Rural Affairs and Minister for the South East

Jonathan Shaw *Boris*

MEETING AIR QUALITY LIMIT VALUES IN LONDON

London continues to be in the vanguard of major cities with innovative policies in place to ensure improved air quality for its citizens. I am aware that since becoming Mayor of London you have taken a number of steps to ensure that this remains the case, including support for the London Low Emission Zone, the announcement of £1 million worth of funding to trial low carbon technology in London's taxi fleet, and the announcement of Low Carbon Zones across London by 2012 which, managed well, should improve air quality as part of the scheme's wider benefits.

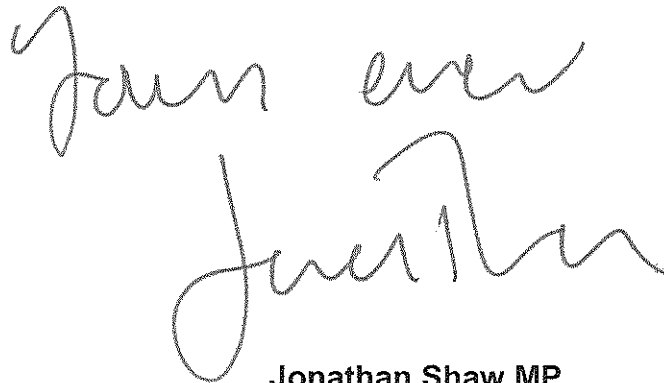
However, although London has some of the worst air pollution in the country, there are only a small number of areas projected to exceed an EU limit value for particulate matter in 2011(as set out in the recently adopted Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC), and these will be the last remaining exceedances in the UK. I am therefore writing to you to ask that we work together with the aim of meeting our air quality objective for particulate in London by 2011 and thereafter.

As you will be aware, air quality limit values, and the deadlines for meeting these limit values as set out in Directive 2008/50/EC, are legally binding on the UK. The objectives in the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are derived from these limit values, as are the objectives contained in the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy published under section 362 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. The objective for particulate matter was due to be met in 2005, but in recognition of the fact that almost all Member States are finding this objective very challenging, Directive 2008/50/EC enables

Member States to apply for compliance flexibilities to extend the deadline for meeting the particulate matter objective to 2011. The UK, along with a number of other Member States, intends to apply for this compliance flexibility, which is conditional on us putting forward a plan of measures to the European Commission demonstrating how we will meet our objective for particulate matter in those zones where there are projected to be exceedances (ie London) in 2011, and how we have already met, or will meet, the particulate matter objective in other areas between 2005 and 2011.

The remaining exceedances are caused primarily by road transport, and my Department will be publishing a consultation in the new year on options for meeting our particulate matter objectives. My officials wish to work closely with your officials, Transport for London and the London boroughs in which the remaining exceedances are projected to occur to develop proposals for consultation.. Working together on this, I am confident that we can develop a package of measures that will meet our air quality objective for particulate matter in these last few remaining areas of London and thus improve the quality of air Londoners breathe. We should not under estimate the scale of the task, and we will also need to develop further national, as well as local, measures in due course to meet our objective for nitrogen dioxide.

I am copying this letter to the chief executives of Barking and Dagenham, Camden, City of London, Cities of Westminster, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Kensington and Chelsea, Southwark and Tower Hamlets. These are the areas where the last few exceedances are projected to occur in 2011, and my officials have sent yours' maps detailing these exceedances.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Shaw', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Shaw MP