



Darren Johnson AM

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Commissioner Dimas
Commissioner for Environment
Environment Directorate-General
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to request that you choose to reject the UK government's application for an extension in order to meet the EU PM₁₀ limit values within Greater London. Upon examining the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy (MAQS) released last week, I do not believe that 'all available measures' are being taken prior to applying for a deadline extension; in fact, it seems that the schemes of key significance have been deferred rather than prioritised. Also, the Mayor's strategy fails to recognise key policy decision which will harm air quality in London, such as abandoning the half yearly inspections for black cabs.

I am concerned that rather than committing to pre-existing proposals with demonstrable effect – such as the Low Emissions Zone (LEZ) and the 'Western Extension' of the Congestion Charging Zone – the Mayor is instead seeking to implement a number of localised measures to temporarily improve air quality at certain pollution 'hotspots'.

These include ad hoc traffic diversions, the re-direction of 'low carbon' public transport, and the planting of street vegetation to these 'hotspots' to mitigate the effect of airborne pollutants. These are mitigation measures dealing with the symptoms, rather than addressing the cause and are a clear sign of failure. In fact that the strategy accepts that PM10 hotspots will still exist "... within a few years the number of PM10 hotspots will be focused on a small number of locations in central London." The proposed diversion and road closures are inadequate as they merely seek to divert emissions in order to superficially reduce statistics on days they are implemented.

A long-term solution directly tackling the source of PM₁₀ is needed, but I have little faith that this Mayor will deliver the necessary changes. The strategy admits that many of the proposals are unfunded. The Mayor's delay of the LEZ stage 3 and cancellation of the Congestion Charging Extension – both of which contributed to the case for the UK's previous extension – are backward steps. Thus I request that you reject the current extension request in order to catalyse substantial enough measures in line with the EU Directive, and to ensure that other member states realise the importance of complying with such regulations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DJ', written in a cursive style.

Cllr. Darren Johnson AM
Green Party Member of the London Assembly

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