



Department of Energy
and Climate Change



defra
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
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20 OCT 2008

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London,
SE1 2AA

15 October 2008

From Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
Minister of State and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords

Dear Boris

I have recently joined Defra as the Minister of State responsible for air quality. Thank you for your letter of 23 September in response to Jonathan Shaw's letter of 21 July. I am pleased that you have re-emphasised your commitment to improving air quality in London and expressed your concern over meeting the EU twenty-four hour mean limit value for PM₁₀ by 2011. Action on particulate emissions is critically important for improving the health of Londoners, particularly in reducing the incidence and impact of respiratory conditions. The challenges we face on improving air quality are significant and it is important that we work together. We must also safeguard the significant gains London has already made on air quality. These are exemplified by the London Low Emission Zone as well as the other plans you mention.

The recent consultation on the Congestion Charge Western Extension is clearly important to safeguarding improvements in air quality as well as carbon reduction in London. There have been real benefits reported by Transport for London following the introduction of the Western Extension, including an estimated reduction in PM₁₀ emissions of 4.2 percent, in oxide of nitrogen emissions of 2.5 percent, and in CO₂ emissions of 6.5 percent. The Transport for London impact summary for the consultation on the Western Extension highlights the negative consequences for air quality arising from the removal of the Western Extension or the introduction of a charge free period. The actions to date have brought London both European and international recognition for the scale of its efforts and I would urge you to keep the air quality gains the Congestion Charge and other initiatives have delivered.

If you would like to meet to explore what further measures are available to reduce emissions and improve prospects of compliance with our legislative requirements and achieving health objectives, please contact my diary secretary, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~


LORD HUNT