

Department of Environmental Services

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Director of Environmental Services

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Dear Dr Williams,

PM10 Air Quality Limit Value in the City of London

As you know, the European Commission recently rejected the UK's application for a time extension for compliance with the EU Limit Value for PM10. On behalf of the City of London Corporation, I would like to register our concern about this decision, as PM10 concentrations along some of our key routes will continue to exceed the Limit Value beyond 2011. One road in particular has a number of residential properties along it and most are heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists.

The City has some of the worst air quality in the country, and there is increasing awareness about this issue amongst residents and its elected representatives. The whole of the City is an Air Quality Management Area, and we are continually looking at ways in which we can improve the situation.

You may be aware that we are in active dialogue with the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Transport for London (TfL) to discuss their ideas to reduce PM10 along some of routes. However, we remain concerned that there are no firm proposals to tackle the problem effectively at this very late stage.

I understand that DEFRA has the option to resubmit the application to the European Commission. Please would you agree to an informal meeting, in the very near future, with representatives from the City, including myself, to discuss our concerns and explore ways in which we may be able to assist with the achievement of the Limit Value?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Jon Averbs
Environmental Health & Public Protection Director

cc: John Tomlinson, Port Health & Environmental Services Committee Deputy Chairman
Philip Everett, Director of Environmental Services
Ruth Calderwood, Environmental Policy Officer