

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA130619-4878

27 June 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on Wednesday 12 June 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

You asked for;

- a) How much the air quality has deteriorated in the last 5 years and most specifically since the introduction of ULEZ*
- b) Statistics for congestion on Tower Bridge Road*

Our response to your request is as follows:

- a) London has one of the most comprehensive air quality monitoring networks of any global city and air quality is constantly monitored at around 100 various locations. These sites provide near real-time information about air quality and are operated and funded by London boroughs. The sites are operated and maintained on behalf of the boroughs either by King's College London or Ricardo AEA. All monitoring sites are listed on the interactive map published by the GLA here: <https://maps.london.gov.uk/air-quality/>. The data produced by these monitoring stations is not held by the GLA, it is owned by the London boroughs, in this instance Southwark. The contact details for the air quality team at Southwark are listed on their website here:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/air-quality/air-quality-queries-and-complaints>.

The information that the GLA holds about air quality specifically on Tower Bridge Road relates to a Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF) funded anti-idling project on Tower Bridge itself. This included additional monitoring on the bridge itself for around a 12 month period beginning September 2014. The mean NO₂ concentration for the monitoring period was 56.4 µg/m³. This is greater than the annual mean NO₂ UK Air Quality Objective value of 40 µg/m³. The 1-hour mean NO₂ UK Air Quality Standard of 200 µg/m³ was exceeded on one occasion during the monitoring period (231.3 µg/m³ on 13 September 2016 at 17:00). The

maximum monthly mean NO₂ concentration was 67.3 µg/m³ in May 2016. The results from the diffusion tube monitoring for the project indicated that: Annual mean NO₂ concentrations exceeded the annual mean NO₂ air quality objective (40 µg/m³) at all sites in 2014 and 2016, and at all sites except SDT 23 and SDT 28 in 2015. Annual mean NO₂ concentrations of greater than 60 µg/m³ were monitored at 12 of the 15 sites in 2014 and 2016. At these locations there is a likelihood that the short-term NO₂ objective (1-hour mean not to exceed 200 µg/m³ more than 18 hours per year) may have been exceeded. The full report for the anti-idling project can be downloaded here:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/8584/Tower-Bridge-Anti-Idling-Final-Report.pdf>.

You asked about the impact that the Ultra Low Emission Zone is having and in the first month of operation, there were around 9,400 fewer older, more polluting, non-compliant vehicles seen in the zone on an average day (excluding non-typical days), a reduction of over a quarter (26 per cent).

- b) The GLA does not hold the information that you request on this point. Transport for London (TfL) is the Mayor's transport authority and this information is held by TfL. You may wish to send a further request to TfL at foi@tfl.gov.uk.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely


Senior Policy and Programme Officer – Air Quality

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>