

MAYOR OF LONDON

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Our ref: MGLA231115-9859

Date: 22 DEC 2015

Dear Jennette

Thank you for your letter of 19 November setting out a motion agreed at Mayor's Question Time in November.

London is vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather and long-term climate change, which is why I have sought to improve the resilience of the city to floods, droughts and heatwaves. My officers have mapped surface water flood risk across the city and worked with the boroughs to develop a multi-million pound project pipeline to address the flood hotspots. I have published a world-leading sustainable drainage action plan to create a step change in how we manage rainwater by retrofitting sustainable drainage measures on a citywide scale. Through my Infrastructure Plan, I have both highlighted the tenuous balance of our supply and demand for water and convened a Water Advisory Group to improve the sustainability and security of London's water supply. Through my tree planting and parks improvement programmes I have greened the capital to help offset the urban heat island. There is more to be done, but I am confident that the capital is more robust to the challenges of climate change than when I came to office.

I can assure you I am not complacent in our understanding of the health impacts of poor air quality, nor am I 'drifting' on this matter.

On the contrary, the figure you have quoted¹ is from a report undertaken this year by King's College on behalf of the Greater London Authority as part of ground-breaking research to calculate the health impacts associated with NO₂, which has made London a world leader and strengthened our understanding of this issue on an international scale.

This research also reaffirmed that we are facing a global challenge – nearly half the health impacts in the capital are caused by pollution elsewhere, such as diesel fumes and industrial emissions arising from the continent.

¹ The study for the first time combined the PM_{2.5} and NO₂ figures to create a total figure of 9,400 equivalent deaths attributed to air quality in 2010.

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Despite this, there has been a 12 per cent reduction in nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations since I took office and I have halved the number of Londoners living in areas exceeding EU limits for NO₂. This trend will continue significantly with the introduction of the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in 2020. We must not forget that London is now, for the first time, compliant for Particulate Matter and meets legal limits for eight of the nine pollutants regulated by Brussels.

However, we must continue to strive to do more, particularly as cleaner vehicles become more affordable and widely available. This is why Transport for London are currently working with officers from London boroughs to develop possible options for the future of the ULEZ and the Low Emission Zone. Of course, any proposals will be subject to detailed analysis of the costs and benefits, extensive consultation and the endorsement of my successor.

During my two terms as Mayor I have taken 13 district heating projects to market with a value of £101m, have an active pipeline of 8 more projects with a market value of £55m, and a potential pipeline of £200m ready for further development support. I have also secured EU funds to enhance the Bunhill District Heating Network and successfully helped deliver district heating from the South East London Combined Heat and Power plant (SELCHP). In addition to SELCHP, the following are also operational/under construction:

- CHP at Crystal Palace;
- The Olympic Fringe – the extension of the Olympic Park CHPDH to outside the Park into Stratford High Street;
- The Shoreditch Heat Network – replacing ageing, inefficient gas and oil fired boilers with a combined heat and power plant and heat network supplying Hackney Homes;
- Gospel Oak – utilising otherwise wasted heat from a new CHP gas turbine installed at the Royal Free Hospital to supply Camden Housing;
- The Somers Town CHPDH scheme that will supply more Camden housing and power to the Francis Crick Institute (under construction).

Over the last five years my London Plan policies have resulted in a commitment to connect more than 190,000 dwellings to district heating networks as well as install over 330,000m² of solar PV panels across around 450 large scale developments in London and save 240,000 tonnes of carbon more than the national requirement and my London Energy Plan will be the first spatial mapping of London's energy demand, supply and infrastructure out to 2050.

RE:FIT, my public sector buildings retrofit programme, is saving 103,000 tCO₂ to date and £5m a year in energy bills and RE:NEW, my domestic programme, has retrofitted over 100,000 homes, saving around 31,000 tCO₂ a year and reducing fuel bills by over £6m. Business Energy Challenge, my programme to encourage commercial sector to retrofit their buildings, has seen organisations cutting their CO₂ emissions by 15 per cent over past 4 years.

Since I was first elected in 2008 London's CO₂ emissions are down 14 per cent despite an increase in population of around 1 million and the economy growing by 20 per cent (10 per cent after inflation) and more impressively, London has reduced its per capita emissions by 28 per cent on 1990 levels and by 20 per cent on 2008 levels to 4.8 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂) per capita in 2013.

These kinds of results are not achieved by drifting.

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On the issue of divestment I have informed the assembly and individual assembly members on numerous occasions that I do not have the power to direct the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) to divest from fossil fuels and the LPFA has a fiduciary duty to its pensioners to get value from its investments.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Johnson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London