

RE: MGLA160216-5397 FOI Request - Air Pollution monitoring and schools

Mayor of London (mayor@london.gov.uk)

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I'm pleased to say much of the information you require is publically available and I have provided further assistance below

Air quality monitors in London are managed and financed by a combination of Defra and the London boroughs as part of statutory duties for Local Air Quality Management (LAQM).

Each monitor has been placed in accordance with either national or local requirements and priorities. At the last count there are 157 air quality monitoring stations in London. There are no legal requirements in the LAQM system to place pollution monitors near schools, although local authorities may choose to do so. You can read more about the guidance provided by Defra on the Defra Local Air Quality Management website: <http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/>. The GLA is also developing a LAQM specifically for London, you can read the draft outlines for this new system here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/pollution-and-air-quality/working-boroughs>.

The location of London monitoring stations, which pollutants they monitor, and the live data is publically available from the organisations that operate the network on behalf of the boroughs: www.londonair.org.uk and http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/data_selector. The GLA also has its own website that combines the two data sources <http://www.cleanerairforlondon.org.uk/londons-air/air-quality-data/data-and-maps/monitoring-air-quality>.

Each website has a map function that should help with your query related to proximity to schools. Furthermore, the GLA Datastore hosts the coordinates of all schools in London, which can be found here: <http://data.london.gov.uk/>

Many London boroughs also monitor air pollution using other technologies, such as NO₂ diffusion tubes. Data from these technologies is included in annual air quality progress reports published on the borough websites.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Senior Policy and Programme Officer (Air Quality)

To whom it may concern,

I would like to request the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The following questions relate to air pollution monitoring in London

1.

How many air pollution monitors are actively recording and measuring air pollution levels in London?

2.

What pollutants do these monitors measure for in London? (if different for each monitor please provide breakdown)

3.

How many of these air pollution monitors are within 10 metres of a school in London? If possible please provide co-ordinates of schools.

4.

How much guidance do you receive from DEFRA on whether to place air pollution monitors near schools in London?

5.

What factors determine where you place air pollution monitors in London?

Thank you, and best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]