

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Andrew Boff AM**

Chair of the London Assembly

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**Our ref:** MGLA241121-8569

**Date:** 26 January 2022

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 23 November 2021 about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 11 November. My replies to Motions 2, 4 and 9 are set out below:

## **Motion 2 - Care and Support Workers as Key Workers**

The Greater London Authority's (GLA) [definition of key workers](#) has now been published. The definition is based on occupations that are considered essential to the functioning of London in normal times and where there is a requirement for an employee to be anchored at their workplace in London to carry out their role.

My housing team has engaged with local authorities, trades unions and housing providers to inform the development of the key worker list. The GLA's definition includes occupations from the health and care sector, including many occupations that provide care and support.

Income caps define eligibility for intermediate housing within the London Plan and will apply to key workers as they do to all Londoners. This will ensure that intermediate homes are occupied by households in housing need.

## **Motion 4 - Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and Good Work Standard**

*"In order to further encourage businesses to make this transition, the Assembly calls on the Mayor to make having a statement of intent and delivery plan to achieve a ULEZ and LEZ compliant vehicle fleet a condition of accreditation for the Good Work Standard."*

I am pleased to read about the Assembly's support for the expansion of the ULEZ. As you noted, the ULEZ expansion will build on the air quality improvements brought about by the central ULEZ, bringing the health benefits of cleaner air to millions more Londoners both inside and outside the new zone.

The introduction of tougher standards for the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) last year and the ULEZ expansion have already helped reduce the number of older, more polluting vehicles on London's roads.

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Data published in October 2021 showed that in August 2021, after six months of the tougher LEZ standards being enforced, 95.5 per cent of large and heavy vehicles operating in London met the standards, up from 48 per cent in February 2017 when the scheme was announced. Similarly, the ULEZ has accelerated a shift to cleaner vehicles. As set out in the recently published First Month Report, 92 per cent of vehicles operating within the new zone meet the ULEZ standards, including 78 per cent of light vans.

My scrappage schemes, including the heavy vehicle and van schemes for small businesses, have played a significant role in this, helping replace over 13,500 vehicles, including over 5,200 vans and minibuses and 119 heavy vehicles. I welcome your calls for further Government support for these schemes in London and would appreciate any further support in helping to make the case to Ministers for this funding.

The high levels of compliance for both schemes show that the majority of businesses are already showing leadership and contributing to improved health outcomes for people across the capital. However, ultimately, we know we have to switch vehicles to zero emission technologies to achieve the zero-carbon, zero-pollution city we need to protect both the health of Londoners and our environment. This is alongside supporting significant increases in the number of people walking, cycling and using public transport.

In considering the most effective way of doing this, the Good Work Standard – which is structured around four pillars that are specifically related to staff wellbeing: pay and conditions, workplace wellbeing, skills and progression, and diversity and recruitment – is not the most appropriate mechanism. Instead, my officers will continue to engage with businesses, including through our work with the boroughs and forums such as the London Business Climate Leaders and the Recovery Board, to encourage and support the rapid decarbonisation of fleets that our city needs.

## **Motion 9 - Wood burning stoves**

You have requested that I:

- 1. Provide a regular update setting out how we are addressing the growing evidence relating to the true impact of wood burning stoves on air pollution.*
- 2. Provide a regular annual update on the proportion of London's particulate matter pollution that is associated with wood burning.*
- 3. Commit to a further Londonwide awareness campaign to highlight the environmental evidence relating to wood burning fires and to actively discourage their adoption in London.*

I am happy to provide regular updates to the London Assembly and to Londoners on how I am addressing the growing evidence relating to the true impact of wood burning stoves on air pollution.

We have recently published the London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) 2019, which provides an update on the proportion of London's particulate matter pollution associated with wood burning. The latest data shows that, in 2019, 17 per cent of London's particulate matter pollution can be attributed to domestic wood burning. Wood burning contributions are updated when full LAEI updates are undertaken, which is approximately every three years. We are exploring producing additional data on an annual basis. However, this may not be feasible for technical

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reasons, so I cannot commit to this at this stage. Nationally, the Government provides an [annual publication](#) covering emissions of some important air pollutants, which includes domestic combustion as a major emission source for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

It is essential we take action to raise awareness about wood burning. I have outlined below the actions I am already taking to address PM<sub>2.5</sub> from wood burning sources, in spite of the limited powers I have to tackle non-road transport emissions.

- At the start of last year I established a local authority wood burning working group to work more closely with boroughs to raise awareness of the impacts of wood burning and to reduce emissions from the combustion of solid fuels.
- In June 2021, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy wrote to all solid fuel suppliers in London to remind them about the new national regulations on permitted fuels, as well as providing some background on the health impacts of air pollution. This letter was co-signed by Mayor Glanville of London Borough of Hackney and Chair of London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee.
- To support boroughs in raising awareness of the impact of wood burning and improving enforcement of the new regulations I have developed four training modules to assist air quality and enforcement officers when carrying out inspections.
- To inform Londoners I am taking a twin track approach, which is also supported by boroughs in the wood burning working group. First, my officers are working with 'Impact on Urban Health' and Kantar to develop and share messaging on the health impacts associated with woodburning.
- However, to achieve meaningful behaviour change requires a sustained and coordinated campaign. As a result, as the second part of my approach, I have supported a multi-borough application to the Defra Air Quality grants programme that is focused on quantifying the emissions from different types of burning activity and raising awareness of the impact of wood burning. If successful, the research element of the project would start in April 2022 with the dedicated awareness raising campaign starting in 2023. The campaign will also be informed by the findings of the Kantar research referred to above.

I am doing everything I can, with the limited powers and funding available, to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions from wood burning sources within the city. However, half of PM<sub>2.5</sub> measured in London's air comes from transboundary sources outside of London. It is therefore essential that the Government takes further action to improve air quality coming from outside of London, as well as providing more powers and funding to tackle London's emissions.

My London Environment Strategy sets out the additional powers required to tackle non-transport PM<sub>2.5</sub> sources in London. This includes action from central Government to set tighter emission limits for wood burning stoves nationally, providing local authorities with stronger enforcement powers in smoke control zones, and enabling me to set minimum emission standards for new wood burning stoves sold in London.

Modelling has shown that with these additional measures and powers, London can meet the interim World Health Organization (WHO) guideline limit for PM<sub>2.5</sub> by 2030. Following the passage

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of the Environment Act 2021, I urge the Government to now adopt the new WHO recommended guidelines as legally binding targets without delay.

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London