

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Our reference: MGLA180722-5237

Date: 8 August 2022

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 17 July 2022. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

You requested:

Please provide me with data on the quality of London's air prior to the introduction of the current ULEZ, and data on the current quality of air for the same.

Please find below the information we hold within the scope of your request. What you have requested is already publicly available and I have included the links to the sources so you can access them directly.

London has one of the most comprehensive air quality monitoring networks of any global city and air quality is constantly monitored at over 150 locations. These sites are operated and funded by the London boroughs, Transport for London (TfL) and Heathrow Airport. A number of these monitoring sites are included in the national Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN), which is the main network used for compliance reporting against the Ambient Air Quality Directives.

All data from the reference air quality monitors in London are publicly available on either the [London Air](#) or [Air Quality England](#) websites, depending on which data manager the borough subscribes to.

To expand London's monitoring capacity, the Mayor piloted and recently expanded the Breathe London low cost sensor network. There are now over 350 active sensors in the network, with many located near priority locations like schools and hospitals. Data from Breathe London network is also publicly available on the [Breathe London website](#).

The websites above include the monitor locations and dates of operation as well as all the pollution concentration data which can be freely downloaded.

The GLA regularly reports on air quality trends in London, including evaluating the impact of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) on London's air quality. This reporting uses data from the city's air quality monitoring network to analyse the long term trends in pollution concentrations and well as estimating the impacts of the scheme.

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You can read the most recent report on the impacts of the ULEZ [here](#) and find links to the previous reports within. Six months on from the ULEZ expansion and over a year on from the enforcement of tighter Low Emission Zone (LEZ) standards for heavy vehicles the data indicate that these schemes are having a significant impact on the number of older, more polluting vehicles seen driving in London and the levels of harmful pollution Londoners are exposed to. The report shows that the expanded ULEZ has already contributed to a 20 per cent reduction in roadside NO₂ in inner London compared to a scenario without the ULEZ and its expansion, with nearly 94 per cent of vehicles seen driving in the zone now meeting the ULEZ standards.

All reports commissioned or published by the GLA on air quality are available [here](#). Recent reports include assessing the health impact of air pollution on asthma in London and evaluating the relationship between air pollution and inequality in London.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA180722-5237.

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Officer

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>