



Transport for London

Leonie Cooper AM
Chair of the Assembly Environment Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA
(Sent via email ian.williamson@london.gov.uk)

Alex Williams
Acting Managing Director,
Planning
Transport for London
Windsor House
42-50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL
Phone: 0343 222 0000

www.tfl.gov.uk

16 August 2016

Dear Leonie,

Thank you for inviting me to appear before the Assembly Environment Committee on Wednesday 13 July to discuss air quality in London. During the meeting, I promised to provide you with further information on our air quality alerts and proposals for a diesel scrappage scheme.

Air Quality Alerts

On Thursday 4 August, the Mayor announced plans to provide better information and alerts during episodes of high air pollution.

From Monday 15 August, during and on the day before high and very high air pollution days, air quality alerts will be displayed at the following areas on our network:

- 2,500 bus countdown signs and river pier signs across London;
- 140 road-side dot matrix message signs on the busiest main roads into London, with instructions to switch engines off when stationary to reduce emissions; and
- Electronic update signs in the entrances of all 270 London Underground stations.

Depending on the alert level and communication channel, different information and guidance will be provided, including:

- Advising people to walk, cycle or use public transport if possible to help improve air quality;

- To reduce strenuous activity if someone experiences symptoms; or
- Advising asthma sufferers and other vulnerable groups that they may need to use their reliever inhaler more often.

A dedicated air quality alerts page is now live at <http://tfl.gov.uk/air-quality-advice> and we are making existing air quality data available in a format that third-party app developers can use.

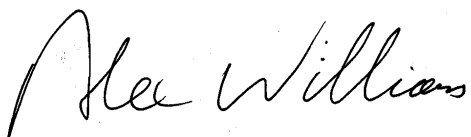
This is the first step towards delivering a comprehensive air pollution incident plan, providing critical information to emergency and support services similar to the existing heatwave plan for England. This will ensure that the most vulnerable Londoners are better prepared and that there is improved co-ordination between the relevant agencies during the very worst air pollution incidents.

Diesel scrappage and Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) devolution

Incentives to change vehicles or scrap the dirtiest vehicles have an important role to play in reducing air pollution. A nationally funded diesel scrappage scheme would help Londoners to comply with the tough new standards we need to help solve this problem. We will be developing options for a diesel scrappage scheme to put to the Government, and will share the results of this work with the Committee when it is completed later this year.

As discussed during the meeting, we are also calling on the Government to devolve powers to London to set VED rates to tackle the particular challenges London faces, including air pollution, as well as providing sustainable funding for our strategic road network. We would welcome the support of the London Assembly Environment Committee in making the case to the Government.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Williams
Acting Managing Director - Planning