

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House, 17 Smiths Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR



21<sup>st</sup> June 2018

Dear Secretary of State,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for attending the Mayor of London's Clean Air Summit lunch yesterday. It was great to hear about your commitment to improving air quality across our country.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is the voice for environmental and public health professionals across the country, representing more than 8,000 members working in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Air quality management is a core duty of environmental health professionals across the UK, and our members have become increasingly frustrated by the absence of modern tools and government support for them to do their job

Over the last year, CIEH has been consistently concerned and disappointed by the lack of engagement from the Government on this issue and, as part of the Healthy Air Campaign, we have supported ClientEarth in the legal action it has taken on three occasions to hold the Government to account.

Unfortunately, the Government's strategic responses to date, in the form of its NO<sub>2</sub> strategy, its 25 Year plan for the Environment, and now its draft Clean Air Strategy, have been inadequate and suggest a lack of leadership and responsibility in protecting the health and well-being of UK citizens.

CIEH has long called for a modern Clean Air Act that would provide a contemporary legislative framework to address a wide range of issues that contribute to the current air quality emergency.

Although we are disappointed that you have not yet agreed to bring in a new Clean Air Act, I was greatly heartened by your commitment yesterday to introducing primary legislation and your drive to protect and improve our environment, with air quality playing a central role in your approach. We are eager to hear further details about the nature of the primary legislation and your strategy going forwards.

In the meantime, I wanted to further highlight the six key measures we believe government must take if we as a country are to properly address the very real threat of deteriorating air quality:

1. Recognition that air quality and climate change are inextricably linked.
2. Tangible steps to promote a shift towards zero emission vehicles, such as setting national minimum standards for buses, lorries, and licensed taxi, emissions, vehicle scrappage

schemes, and significant investment in national infrastructure to support zero emission vehicles.

3. A centrally-funded national campaign to encourage sustainable and active transport, dissuade people from travelling by car, and promote walking and cycling in congested areas.
4. New guidance for the Planning Inspectorate to ensure that due regard is given to the adverse impact large developments may have on air quality before they approve development.
5. Nationally set parameters for new houses to ensure they are fit for the future, such as the inclusion of electric vehicle charging points and the provision of ultra-low NOx emission boilers.
6. The commissioning of further research into developing effective strategies to address the health and wider societal effects of poor air quality.

We believe that central government has a strong leadership role to play in tackling the air quality crisis, and I look forward to seeing measures from yourself and your department that begin to mirror this responsibility.

Thank you very much for your time.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Godfrey', written in a cursive style.

Anne Godfrey  
Chief Executive of CIEH