

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FORUM

c/o The Institution of Environmental Sciences
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Lord De Mauley
Parliamentary Under Secretary, Defra
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Thursday, 12th September 2013

Dear Lord De Mauley,

The need for a new Air Quality Strategy

The Environmental Policy Forum (EPF) is a network of UK environmental professional bodies promoting environmental sustainability and resilience for the public benefit. The EPF's member bodies have a collective membership of around 40,000 environmental professionals, many of whom are individually chartered in environmental practice, science and engineering disciplines.

The EPF believes that the UK is long overdue an updated Air Quality Strategy. The current Strategy was published in 2007 before the 2008 Air Quality Directive was adopted. Since then there has been growing evidence both of the failure the European directives to reduce exhaust emissions of nitrogen oxides for some vehicle classes, and a growing body of medical evidence that has strengthened the proof of the adverse health impacts of both nitrogen dioxide and various metrics of particulate matter. The Government must renew its efforts to improve ambient air quality for the protection of human health and ecosystems.

Defra has recently looked at reform of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process. We believe this review to be premature. The Government must first draw up a wider roadmap of how it intends to address poor air quality before it investigates implementation tools such as LAQM. This would be the sensible and proper order in which to approach reform. Without a new Air Quality Strategy, the Government's response to the air quality challenge risks being piecemeal and ineffective.

We welcome the Government's renewed interest in air quality, but this must not be at the expense of a wider discussion on public health and environmental concerns. Any serious attempt to improve air quality in the UK must be based on sound environmental science and evidence.

The EPF is committed to assisting the Government with its Air Quality policy, helping to meet its air quality targets and improve public health in the UK. We, the undersigned, would be pleased to meet and discuss this with you further.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Holman
IAQM Vice Chair & CIWEM Air Quality Chair



Adam Donnan
CEO, Institution of Environmental Sciences

For and on behalf of:

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