

Doctors Against Diesel  
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10 May 2017

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AAT

Dear Theresa May,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 March.

Thank you for your letter dated 9 March in which you clearly expressed an understanding of the health impacts of air pollution, and diesel emissions in particular.

Following the release last Friday of the Air Quality Plan, which does not reflect the sentiments expressed in your letter, we are today delivering a Prescription for Clean Air.

We are extremely concerned that the new Air Quality Plan fails to tackle emissions at source. We want to see a commitment to work towards a transport system where no child's lung health is impaired by transport pollution. This must be achieved, as legally required, in the shortest possible time.

In the Plan no new Clean Air Zones (CAZs) were announced, Charging Zones are discouraged, no additional funding for local authorities has been included in the original CAZ framework, and there is an unclear diesel scrappage scheme and weak vehicle retrofitting initiatives with, again, local authorities having to figure out how to finance. Such measures will not be effective in protecting the public, with children and those with chronic conditions being at particular risk.

You clearly understand the urgency of the situation, but for too long, no Government department has accepted full responsibility for the health impacts of diesel emissions. As Prime Minister you, or your successor on 8th June, are in a unique position to ensure joined up thinking and a robust response.

Please see the attached prescription, the reverse of which outlines essential elements of any serious proposal to improve air quality, and reduce the health impacts of vehicle emissions on children's health.

Yours Sincerely,

On behalf of Doctors Against Diesel:

Prof. Jonathan Grigg, Professor of Paediatric Respiratory and Environmental Medicine,  
Queen Mary University of London

Prof. Chris Griffiths, Professor of primary care and joint centre lead in the Centre for Primary  
Care and Public Health. Principal investigator at the MRC-Asthma UK Centre for Allergic  
Mechanisms in Asthma

Dr Taavi Tillman, Public Health Physician and Wellcome Trust Research Fellow

Prof David McCoy, Professor of Global Health, Queen Mary University of London

Prof. Stephen Holgate, Professor of Immunopharmacology at Southampton University  
and Chair of the Royal College of Physicians Working Party on Air Pollution

Dr Anna De Simoni, NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer in Primary Care Research, Barts and The  
London School of Medicine and Dentistry

Dr Rossa Brugha, Academic Clinical Lecturer, Imperial College London

Dr Rachel Bower, GP, Tower Hamlets

Dr Zoe Steley, Emergency Medicine Doctor

Dr Chinedu Nwokoro, Consultant Respiratory Paediatrician and Honorary Clinical Senior  
Lecturer, Barts Health NHS Trust and Queen Mary University of London

Dr Hugh Grant Peterkin, Psychiatry Registrar