

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Defra Atmosphere and Local Environment
Area 5F Ergon House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Telephone 08459 33 55 77

Website www.defra.gov.uk

Telephone 08459 33 55 77

Website www.defra.gov.uk



Our ref RFI 00003349

Date 14 June 2010

Mr Tim Henderson

Email: [request-35824-](mailto:request-35824-0b665965@whatdotheyknow.com)

0b665965@whatdotheyknow.com

By e-mail

Dear Mr Henderson

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Update on PM₁₀ Air Quality Compliance - London 2011

Thank you for your request for updated information which demonstrated compliance with the EU daily limit value for particulate matter (PM₁₀) in London in 2011, which we received on 24 May 2010. We are dealing with your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The information you requested was submitted in May 2010 to the European Commission (as an application for additional time (to 2011) to meet the PM₁₀ daily limit value in London) and has been published on their web site (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/legislation/time_extensions.htm). This additional information was submitted following the Commission's Decision in December 2009 (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/legislation/pdf/uk_en.pdf) and show that compliance is expected to be achieved in 2011.

In your request you specifically asked for confirmation on whether the projections included (a) the continued operation of the Western Extension to the Congestion Charge Zone (WEZ) in 2011; and (b) the introduction of Low Emission Zone (LEZ) controls for light goods vehicles in 2010

WEZ



The WEZ was included in the projections used to inform our submission of additional information to the Commission. The Mayor of London has announced plans to remove the WEZ, but this does not affect our conclusion that compliance will be achieved by 2011. A detailed explanation is below:

In compiling the latest national projections in early 2009, TfL provided Defra with London specific traffic growth forecasts which included the WEZ, which at the time was reasonable as WEZ withdrawal was not confirmed policy. These projections informed the PM₁₀ resubmission, which concluded that compliance would be achieved in 2011 at the highest monitored location (Marylebone Road). This conclusion has been validated by the more recent modelling undertaken in support of the Mayor's draft Air Quality Strategy. This did not include the WEZ in its list of policies but also projected compliance by 2011 (with appropriate priority location measures as necessary).

The single most important feature which determines the concentrations of PM₁₀ alongside individual road links is the traffic which that road link carries (speed, volume and composition). The WEZ could affect our assessments of compliance for 2011 if it were to impact on the traffic along the road links with highest concentrations of PM₁₀ or if its removal revealed road links which had otherwise been deemed to be in compliance with the limit value, i.e. revealed new hot spot locations. No such impacts have been identified.

Of the 15 road links with the highest predicted annual average concentrations of PM₁₀ in London, six are along the Marylebone Road/Euston Road – the northern boundary of the WEZ and Central Charging Zone (CCZ) - four are along the “free passage route” running between the WEZ and CCZ, and the remaining five are either within the CCZ or to the east of the CCZ. Evidence from extensive TfL traffic count data shows that the WEZ had no significant impact on the traffic volume, speed or composition along any of these road links. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that the presence or absence of the WEZ makes no material difference to the predicted concentrations of PM₁₀ along these links and so is not relevant to the predicted compliance date for the PM₁₀ limit value. Furthermore, none of the road links within the WEZ have been shown to have a higher concentration of PM₁₀ than those listed above before the WEZ was initiated. It would be unreasonable to assume that the removal of the WEZ increases emissions along links within its boundaries to levels quite significantly above those seen before its initiation – none of the roads in the WEZ area carry the level of traffic seen on the Marylebone Road, for example. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that the removal of the WEZ does not reveal any unforeseen hotspots with regard to PM₁₀.

London LEZ

Our submission to the Commission referred to above makes clear on page 10 and in the Executive Summary that the expected impact of Phase 3 of the London LEZ (for LGV's planned for October 2010) has been removed from the projections..

Please note that in keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The information released to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. I also attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

Yours sincerely

Del Akinola

Bamdele(Del) Akinola
(Atmosphere and Local Environment Programme)
Direct Line 0207 238 4458
Email Bamdele.akinola@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annexe A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by Defra will have been produced by government officials and will be Crown Copyright. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright on OPSI (Office of Public Sector Information) at:

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/index.htm>

Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information.

Annexe B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Clive Porro, Head of Defra's Information Rights Team at, Area1B Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AL, (email: informationrights@defra.gsi.gov.uk) who will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure can be found at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/policy/opengov/complain/info.htm>

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF