

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

Caroline Bruce
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Neighbourhoods and Growth
Via email to: caroline.bruce@southwark.gov.uk
CC: environmental.protection@southwark.gov.uk

Department: Good Growth

Date: 22 August 2024

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for submitting your Annual Status Report (ASR) for 2023, in fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

As part of the London Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM) system introduced in April 2016 and updated in 2019, the power to approve these reports sits with the Mayor of London, pursuant to Part IX of the Greater London Authority Act 1999.

Please see below for the outcome of your report assessment and some other important updates.

Assessment of your report

Based on the evidence provided by the local authority, the conclusions reached are **accepted** for all sources and pollutants **but will require amendments as described in the commentary below in bold**.

Please see the notes attached at the end of this letter for detailed comments on your report.

GLA Update

Sadiq Khan was re-elected as Mayor of London for a historic third term in May 2024. Tackling air pollution will remain a key priority for him over the next mayoral term. We can only continue to build on the successes of the last eight years through effective action in partnership with boroughs such as yours. In that spirit, there are several plans and policies I'd like to update you on:

ULEZ expansion to outer London

The Mayor expanded the ULEZ to cover all London boroughs on 29 August 2023. 95 per cent of vehicles seen driving in London on an average day are now compliant with the ULEZ standards after one month of the London-wide ULEZ operating. This

translates to 77,000 fewer of the most polluting vehicles seen driving in the zone on an average day.

Air Quality Alerts

In February 2024, the Mayor and the NHS jointly launched a new air quality alert for GPs and Emergency Departments. This alert was developed in collaboration with the [London Air Quality and Health Programme Office](#), delivering on a pledge made following the coroner's report on the death of Ella Adoo-Kissi Debrah and at the 2022 Clean Air and Health Summit.

The Mayor also updated the language in the alerts that go to schools. This will support his goal to make London the best place in the world to grow up.

I hope that you and your colleagues will continue to support the Mayor's Air Quality Alerts system and promote our messaging on days when pollution is higher than normal.

Mayor's Air Quality Fund

The Mayor was very pleased to announce Round 4 of funding for the Mayor's Air Quality Fund in March 2024. This round of funding is supporting seventeen projects to reduce particulate matter emissions, run more sustainable events and improve indoor air quality. We look forward to working with colleagues across the city as these projects progress.

Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM)

The NRMM LEZ standards will get tighter with time. By 2040, all NRMM will need to be zero emission. The next stage of standards will be introduced from January 2025. For more information on the NRMM LEZ and these upcoming standards, please visit our [NRMM webpage](#).

To support the NRMM LEZ, we are continuing to work with the Cleaner Construction for London Team at London borough of Merton to deliver the pan London NRMM scheme. The GLA provide over 50% of the total necessary funds, to be match funded with £4,000 per borough per year. I'd like to thank you once again for your ongoing support for this essential scheme.

Pollution monitoring

Maintaining (and where possible enhancing) existing reference-level monitoring, supplemented by NO₂ diffusion tubes, remains as essential as ever. But to achieve higher spatial coverage of monitors, we are supporting the roll out of small sensors through our Breathe London network.

Since 2021, the Mayor has partnered with Bloomberg Philanthropies and Imperial College London to expand the Breathe London network to over 400 monitoring sites across London. All the data from the Breathe London Network is publicly available in near real time on the [Breathe London](#) website.

School filters

To further protect the health of young Londoners, the Mayor announced £2.7m of funding to deliver indoor air quality filters in all classrooms across 200 of London's most polluted schools. These filters will be installed to reduce levels of the key pollutant PM_{2.5} in classrooms.

In addition to the filters themselves, the funding will pay for school engagement, educational materials and monitoring and evaluation of the scheme which could inform further rollout of filters once this project is complete.

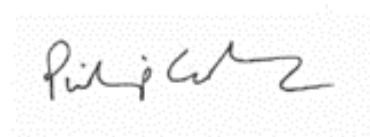
World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines

As you know, the Mayor committed to achieving 10 µg/m³ annual mean PM_{2.5} by 2030 in London. [Projections](#) for London's air pollutant emissions and concentrations show that, without further significant action, London will not meet the WHO's health-based air quality guidelines. The projections also show that non-transport sources, such as wood burning and commercial cooking, will increase as a proportion of London's total emissions.

The GLA is undertaking research to understand what action will be needed to meet the WHO guidelines, as well as considering what additional powers would be needed. We will be engaging with London boroughs on this work in due course with a view to identifying a roadmap for achieving the WHO guidelines, and we look forward to hearing your views.

Thanks again for all your work on air quality this year.

Kind regards,



Philip Graham
Executive Director, Good Growth

Feedback on your 2023 Annual Status Report:

1. There is currently one AQMA within the borough which was declared for exceedances in the annual mean NO₂ objective and daily mean PM₁₀ objective. The Southwark AQMA covers the whole borough and was originally declared in June 2003 but amended in June 2023. The AQAP for the AQMA was published in January 2023.
2. Details regarding actions within the AQAP are included for all themes within the LLAQM matrix.
3. Across the borough, there were seven automatic monitoring stations during 2023. All of the sites measure NO_x, NO₂, PM₁₀, and six sites monitor PM_{2.5}. All but one of the sites are at roadside locations (SWK6 is situated at an urban background site).
4. Annual mean NO₂ concentrations measured at automatic monitoring sites were compliant with the objective in 2023. The maximum annual mean NO₂ concentration recorded at an automatic monitoring site was 30.8 µg/m³, recorded at SKB. Annual mean NO₂ concentrations in 2023 at all applicable monitoring sites are below pre-pandemic levels. No automatic monitoring site recorded any instance of the hourly mean NO₂ concentration exceeding 200 µg/m³.
5. There were no exceedances of the annual mean PM₁₀ objective at any automatic monitoring site in 2023. A maximum annual mean PM₁₀ concentration of 22.3 µg/m³ was recorded at SK5. There was a maximum of five instances of the daily mean PM₁₀ concentration exceeding 50 µg/m³, recorded at SKB. This is below the allowance of 35 instances. The number of instances where the daily mean PM₁₀ concentration has exceeded 50 µg/m³ has not exceeded 35 instances for at least 8 years.
6. Compliance was achieved in 2023 with regards to the annual mean PM_{2.5} objective, with a maximum concentration of 9.9 µg/m³. This is also within the Mayor's target of 10 µg/m³.
7. There are 12 indicative Breathe London monitors across the borough, which appear to monitor NO₂ and PM_{2.5}. The relevant objectives have been met at all indicative monitoring sites.
8. Passive monitoring of NO₂ was undertaken at 85 locations during 2023, including two triplicate sites co-located with automatic monitors (SWK5 and SWK6). One site was removed in 2023 (SDT162) and replaced with a Breathe London monitor.
9. There were no exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ objective at any passive monitor site following distance correction to relevant exposure. A maximum annual mean NO₂ concentration of 39.2 µg/m³ was recorded at relevant exposure (SK18). Two sites (SDT81 and SDT18) recorded concentrations above 36 µg/m³ at relevant exposure which suggests a risk of exceedance.
10. Six passive sites showed an increase in concentrations between 2022 and 2023. Concentrations across the network are largely below those recorded pre-pandemic.
11. Measured ozone concentrations at SK6 have now been included in the report following comments from the previous ASR appraisal. This is welcomed.
12. Ozone monitoring at SK6 highlights that the site has consistently exceeded the daily maximum 8-hour running mean objective since 2020.
13. QA/QC of both automatic and non-automatic monitoring data has been carried out, with sufficient evidence of all procedures. Annualisation was performed appropriately for two locations, and distance correction was applied to seven

passive monitoring sites. The Council have calculated a local co-location bias adjustment factor of 0.77 in 2023. However, a national bias adjustment factor of 0.81 has been used as this is deemed more conservative and as one co-location (SK6) has low data capture. This is welcomed.

14. An update on planning applications and new emissions sources was also provided. There were 36 planning applications which included an air quality assessment in 2023. 29 applications were required to monitor construction dust, and 15 developments had an AQ neutral undertaken.
15. Three amended industrial sources were identified by the Council, including one permit for the operation of the medium combustion plant, one permit for the operation of a back-up generator, and one permit for the operation of two combined heat power units.
- 16. It is indicated in Table E that all Breathe London monitors measure PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} only, however results have been presented for NO₂, but have not been presented for PM₁₀. Table E should be updated with the correct pollutants.**
17. Figures have been provided to highlight the location of the monitoring sites, which are clear and easy to read. The use of a colour scheme to represent the monitored 2023 concentration is useful and should be utilised in the future. The inclusion of Air Quality Focus Areas on each figure is commended. The additional of scale bar and north arrow may be beneficial.
18. The use of several different trend graphs for automatic monitoring networks is commended and allows for clear visualisation of the trends within the borough. This is aided by the identification of both LLAQM and WHO objectives on each graph. Trend graphs would also be useful for the passive monitoring network, particularly within Air Quality Focus Areas.