

Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Wednesday 18 October 2017

Dear Mr Khan,

We are writing to you as charities and medical professionals who want to protect the health of Londoners both now and in the future.

We congratulate you on your bold commitment to improve air quality. We strongly support the introduction of the new Toxicity Charge (T-Charge) in the congestion charge area from 23 October.

Like you, we believe this surcharge will help discourage the use of older, more polluting vehicles in central London. This will help change behaviours and start to reduce levels of toxic air, which in turn will bring vast health and environmental benefits.

Vehicle emissions, particularly from diesel, are a risk to everyone. Filthy air hits hardest those with an existing health condition, children and older people. It can worsen existing conditions like asthma, and affect babies' development before they're born. Breathing in high amounts of polluted air is also linked to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

To make a real difference to Londoners' health, it's essential that the T-Charge is used as a stepping stone to more ambitious plans to tackle toxic air. This means, introducing an ambitious, London-wide Ultra-Low Emission Zone as quickly as possible. We need urgent action to tackle this health crisis.

We look forward to hearing from you,

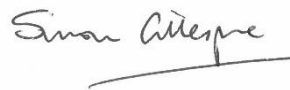
Yours sincerely,



Dr. Penny Woods

Chief Executive

British Lung Foundation



Simon Gillespie

Chief Executive

British Heart Foundation



Professor Stephen Holgate
Special adviser on Air Quality
Royal College of Physicians



Professor Jonathan Grigg
Royal College of Paediatrics
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Lynn Gradwell
Director of Barnardo's London
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Paul Goulden
Chief Executive
Age UK London



Kay Boycott
Chief Executive
Asthma UK



Mike Penrose
Chief Executive
Unicef UK

