



22 October 2018

Dear Philip Hammond,

Clean Air for Children Programme

We are writing on behalf of the Clean Air Parents' Network and supporting organisations from across the health, scientific, transport and environmental communities to ask for your support for a Clean Air for Children Programme, which includes emergency measures to protect children's health.

Supported by the British Lung Foundation and ClientEarth, the Clean Air Parents' Network represents parents and carers across the country who are concerned about how air pollution is affecting their children to call for cleaner air in their local areas.

Children across the UK are exposed to dirty air every day, and thousands of schools, nurseries and playgrounds are located near roads with illegal and harmful levels of air pollution. This is putting their health at risk – breathing polluted air can both stunt the growth of children's lungs, leaving them at increased risk of respiratory disease later in life; it can also trigger potentially life-threatening asthma attacks.

Legal limits of air pollution should have been met in 2010, but government projections suggest that, without further measures, this will not happen until at least 2028. In addition, much of the UK suffers from levels of particulate matter that are over the WHO guidelines. Urgent action is needed to protect children's lungs, so they grow up breathing cleaner and healthier air.

We believe that a Clean Air for Children Programme would help to prioritise children and protect them, as vulnerable members of our communities, from the effects of air pollution.

The programme should:

1. Carry out a comprehensive air quality audit of schools, nurseries and playgrounds in known pollution hotspots to identify all those affected by illegal and harmful levels of air pollution to identify and implement policies and actions to protect children's health.
2. Ban the creation of new schools, nurseries and playgrounds in pollution hotspots.
3. Bring in traffic exclusion zones around schools, nurseries and playgrounds where this will help to reduce children's exposure.

4. Promote and enable walking, cycling and public transport as realistic options for journeys to and from schools, nurseries and playgrounds.
5. Provide schools and nurseries with a proactive alert system for high pollution events and guidance and support on how to protect children from air pollution throughout the year.
6. Bring in new clean air laws to safeguard our right to breathe clean air with limits based on WHO guidelines. We can make the UK a world leader in clean air, developing the solutions that we and other countries need to protect our health.

The programme should be funded and developed by central government to ensure speedy and cost-effective delivery. Drawing from past and existing government programmes and projects, we estimate that the programme could be initially rolled out with £153 million funding for the first year to target some of the worst affected schools and nurseries. This funding would complement work being delivered through other government funds, such as the Implementing Fund for the Air Quality Plan, the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and the Transforming Cities Funds. Beyond 2018-19, the programme should be supported by a multi-year funding commitment to tackle the problem at scale.

We would be delighted if you could support this call. We urge that you commit funding to the Clean Air for Children Programme within the forthcoming Budget. An initial fund of £153 million in 2018-19 could help roll out emergency measures to prioritise the health of children where they learn and where they play.

Air pollution remains a significant cost to society, and one which significantly outweighs investment in tackling it. Modelling by Public Health England (2018) found particulate pollution (PM_{2.5}) alone cost the NHS and social care up to £71.10 million in 2017. They estimate total health cost of PM_{2.5} and nitrogen dioxide combined could rise to as much as £2.81 billion between 2017 and 2025.

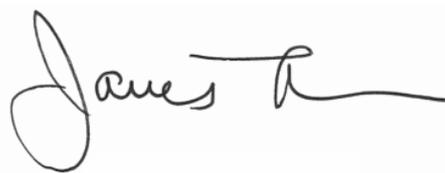
Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like further information or if you would be available for a meeting to discuss this vital issue.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the Clean Air Parent's' Network,

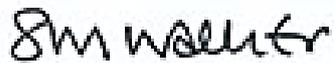


Dr Penny Woods, Chief Executive,
British Lung Foundation



James Thornton, CEO, ClientEarth

Supported by:



Dr Samantha Walker, Director of
Research and Policy and Deputy Chief
Executive, Asthma UK



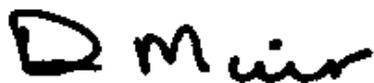
Professor Chris Griffiths, Barts Institute of
Population Health Sciences, Co-Director
Asthma UK Centre for Applied Research
and Principal Investigator MRC Centre
Asthma UK Centre in Allergic Mechanisms
of Asthma



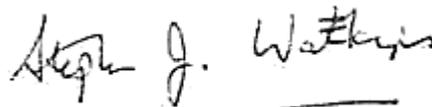
Dr Ingrid Wolfe, Co-Chair, British
Association of Child & Adolescent Public
Health



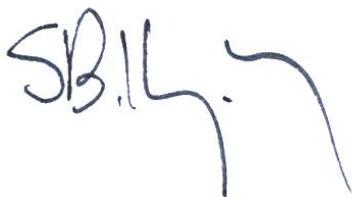
Dr Fiona Godlee, Editor in chief, The BMJ



David Muir, Chair of the Executive
Committee on Air Quality, Environmental
Protection UK



Dr Stephen Watkins, Vice President, Faculty
of Public Health of the Royal Colleges of
Physicians



Saul Billingsley, Executive Director, FIA
Foundation



Chris Large, Senior Partner, Global Action
Plan – coordinators of Clean Air Day



Rebecca Newsom, Head of Politics,
Greenpeace



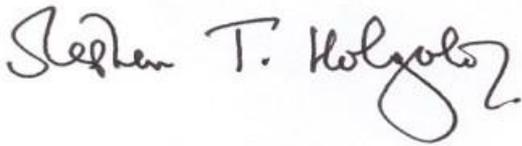
Dr Laure de Preux, Assistant Professor of
Economics, Imperial College Business
School



Frank Kelly, Professor of Environmental Health, King's College London



Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretary, National Education Union



Professor Stephen Holgate, Special Adviser on Air Quality, Royal College of Physicians



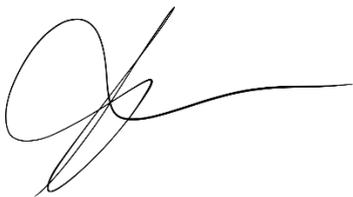
Professor Jonathan Grigg, Co-Chair, Indoor Air Quality Working Group, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health



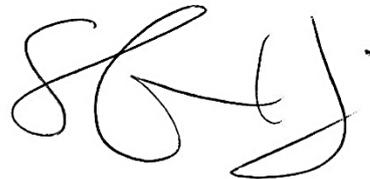
Xavier Brice, Chief Executive, Sustrans



Hannah Graff, Senior Policy Lead, UK Health Forum



Laurie Laybourn-Langton, Director, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change



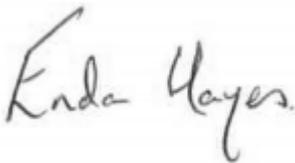
Sophie Gallois, Deputy Executive Director, Communications, Advocacy and Programmes, Unicef



Anthony Costello, Professor of Global Health and Sustainable Development University College London and Former Director, Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, World Health Organisation



Professor Simon Capewell, Department of Public Health & Policy, University of Liverpool



Professor Enda Hayes, Director of the Air Quality Management Resource Centre, University of West England



Professor Jim Longhurst, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Environment and Sustainability, University of West England



The [Clean Air Parents' Network](#) represents parents and carers of children across the country who want to help solve the UK's air pollution crisis. We are calling on all levels of government to take action to tackle illegal and harmful levels of air pollution so our children can grow up breathing cleaner and healthier air. The Network is supported by the British Lung Foundation (registered charity number 326730) and ClientEarth (registered charity number 1053988).