



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Thank you for the update regarding air quality in Bath.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has informed me that they are updating their national air quality plans and intend to introduce new plans next year. These plans will take the updated COPERT factors into account that are used to forecast car emissions.

With respect to diesel engines, progressively tighter new vehicle emission standards have reduced harmful particulate matter pollution emissions from diesel vehicles. The latest emission standard for lorries and buses, Euro VI, will substantially reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and government experts are working to ensure the same for diesel cars and vans.

More widely, improving the UK's air quality and cutting NOx emissions is a priority for the Government. Between 2011 and 2020 the Department for Transport has committed over two billion pounds on a wide range of measures to help improve air quality further, including encouraging the uptake of electric cars and other ultra-low emission vehicles, and schemes to promote greener public transport, cycling and walking.

The UK has been leading the push for real world emissions tests which will address this problem. Real Driving Emissions (RDE) tests will be introduced next year to reduce harmful emissions, improve air quality and give consumers' confidence in the performance of their cars. It will ensure tests accurately reflect performance out on the road and will be part of the process to approve vehicles for sale from 2017

You are right in thinking that Bath has already established an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) which indicates a zone where national air quality objectives are not being met. As you are already aware, plans to address this involve the A36/A46 link road which is now confirmed to be included in the next strategic planning phase for road networks by Highways England. This is a very positive step towards reducing the amount of traffic travelling through parts of Bath and improving the quality of air, especially in areas such as London Road. You can read more about this at my website here: <https://www.benhowlett.co.uk/news/major-progress-secured-east-bath-bypass>



Thank you once again for updating me on this, I hope we can make significant progress over the coming years to improve air quality in Bath.

Best wishes.  
Ben

**Ben Howlett**  
Member of Parliament for Bath

You may have also seen that I raised air quality in the debate on the F Word transport yesterday in the House.