



HOUSE OF COMMONS

2nd March 2020

Dear local residents,

Thank you to those who have contacted me about air quality.

I recognise that poor air quality is the greatest environmental risk to our health. Whilst it is encouraging that our air is now cleaner than at any point since the Industrial Revolution, more work can and should be done.

That is why I welcome the Government's Clean Air Strategy which aims to cut air pollution and is supported by new primary legislation. The Strategy details how the UK will go further and move more quickly than the EU to reduce exposure to particulate matter pollution. It sets out a goal to halve the number of people living in locations with concentrations of particulate matter above WHO guidelines, legislate to give councils more powers to improve air quality and ensure only the cleanest domestic fuels and stoves can be sold. I am encouraged that it has been described by the WHO as '*an example for the rest of the world to follow*'. You can read the Strategy here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019

The *Environment Bill* will build on this Strategy as it increases local powers to address sources of air pollution, enabling local authorities to work with families to cut harmful pollution from domestic burning by using cleaner fuels. As you are aware, the Bill also commits the Secretary of State to set a legally binding target for particulate matter (PM2.5) before 31 October 2022. The Government has said that this target will be among the most ambitious in the world and improve the quality of millions of people's lives. I appreciate that you would like to see the Government adopt the World Health Organization's target for PM2.5 and you may be interested to know that the Government has already looked into whether this would be feasible and has concluded that "it would be technically feasible to meet the WHO guideline level for PM2.5 across the UK in the future". I would like to assure you that I will continue to follow this matter closely. You can find more information about the Government's work on PM2.5 here: <https://tinyurl.com/wn8gbwz>

I hope that this information is reassuring. If you have any further concerns about this, or any other issues, please do get back in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane'.

Jane Hunt MP