



# Towards clean air for all

To all London Mayoral candidates

March 2021

An estimated 4,000 deaths in London were attributable to toxic air in 2019, and many more Londoners suffer from the daily impacts of preventable illness such as lung and heart disease.

But the health burden of dirty air is not equal. The most deprived Londoners are over six times more likely to live in areas with higher pollution than the least deprived.

And levels of the toxic gas nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in areas where people of Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds are most likely to live are on average 24–31% higher than areas where white people are most likely to live.

The Mayor of London controls the city's Red Routes main road network, which was planned decades ago for a city unrecognisable today. These are just 5% of roads but carry up to a third of London's traffic on an average day.

The Red Routes create health inequities in London. For example, patients and visitors to Royal London Hospital, on Whitechapel Road, are exposed to levels of NO<sub>2</sub> that are 82% higher than the average hospital in London.

And on a day-to-day basis, many deprived and vulnerable Londoners live, work and go to school near these busy roads, breathing higher and often illegal levels of air pollution every day with devastating health impacts.

A bold vision and urgent action plan to rethink and repurpose the Red Routes, along with a world class walking and cycling network and accessible and affordable zero-emissions public transport, is critical for everyone's health and our future generations. This will demand a fresh approach to freight in the capital and an honest discussion on the need to reduce our dependence on cars.

We look forward to voting for a healthier London.

Signed,  
100+ health professionals (names overleaf)

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## Signatories

- Rob Abrams
- Rebecca Heorton
- Professor Robert Goodman
- Dr Anna Goodman
- Xanthe Gazard
- Dr Anna Moore
- Dr Adam Harvey-Sullivan
- Louise Neervoort
- Dr Holly Clarke
- Miss Victoria Sullivan
- Haroon Ahmed
- Dr Sarah Foot
- Mr Peter May
- Jessica Pawson, Physiotherapist
- Dr Aarash Saleh
- Dr Rebecca Waldron
- Professor Stephen Scott CBE  
PhD FRCP FMedSci
- Silvia Angioi
- Stuart Innes
- Jacqueline Robbins
- Christine Joerres
- Sophie Walpole
- Daisy Tudball
- Dr Robert Hughes
- Dr Tehseen Khan MBChB  
MRCGP MPH
- Dr Katharine Towers
- Dr Neeraj Prasad MBBS, BSc,  
PgClinDipDerm
- Dr Camilla Moriarty
- Dr. C Morgan
- Dr Lindsey Angel
- Dr Anna Jones
- Dr Sarah Cosser
- Dr Fionnuala Ryan
- Robbie Newman
- Dr Shabana Issa MBBS BSc  
FRCEM
- Dr Lillian Risi
- Dr Helen Stedeford
- Dr Kishore Kukendrarajah
- Dr Emma Radcliffe
- Mr M S Alvi (Consultant  
Physiotherapist, MCSP, HCPC,  
AACP, ACPOHE)
- Dr Ralph Mortimer Roome
- Jonathan Hudson
- Zarah Yusuf MRCGP
- Charlotte Carter
- Anna Dunnigan
- Dr Helena Wickham
- Dr Rosie Ryan
- Dr Mahesh Pillai
- Dr Alice Kociejowski
- Dr Meera Kamalanathan
- Dr Monica Krivcevska
- Dr Laura-Jane Smith
- Dr Hilde Gundersen
- Dr C J Valerio
- Dr C Dearman
- Dr Will Ricketts
- Dr Jessica Potter
- Dr Laura White
- Dr Lucia Possamai
- Dr Josephine Arumugam
- Dr Nirav Shah
- Dr Claire Mason
- Dr Justin Shute
- Dr George Huntington
- Dr Sumathi Ragavan
- Dr Annie Borland
- Victoria Possamai
- Dr. Nora Rossberg
- Dr Isobel Baron
- Dr Chris Pieri
- Dr Shani Bhaskaran
- Dr Robert Luder
- Andrew Millar
- Hannah Petra
- Dr. Salma Hassan
- Dr F McEwan
- Alexander Taylor
- Dr Katia Florman
- Catriona Chaplin
- Ms Tansy Billingham
- Miss Abigail Thompson
- Dr Tamsin Ellis
- Jo Kennedy
- Dr Rose Penfold
- Dr Christianne Guillotte
- Dr Terence Matthews
- Dr Julia Bailey
- Dr Amelia Cussans
- Dr Gianna Chadwick, MBBS,  
MRCGP (2015), DFSRH, MA  
(Oxon)
- Brooke Gerrie
- Dr Rachel Nunn
- Luke Costello
- Amanda Sissons
- Dr Selali Fiamanya
- Dr Rita Issa
- Scott Feely-Henderson
- Josepg Mackay-Christie
- Dr Niki Jakeways
- Kari Leung
- Nadia Audhali
- Charlotte Monro
- Dr Alex Armitage

## Evidence base

1. 4,000 deaths in London attributable to toxic air in 2019: The London Health Burden of Current Air Pollution and Future Health Benefits of Mayoral Air Quality Policies [report](#) produced by the Environmental Research Group at Imperial College London.
2. The most deprived Londoners are over six times more likely to live in areas with higher pollution than the least deprived: EDF Europe analysis using high resolution modelled NO<sub>2</sub> annual averages produced for Breathe London pilot project.
3. Levels of the toxic gas nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in areas where people of BAME backgrounds are most likely to live are on average 24 – 31% higher than areas where white people are most likely to live: EDF Europe analysis using high resolution modelled NO<sub>2</sub> annual averages produced for Breathe London pilot project.
4. Patients and visitors to Royal London Hospital, on Whitechapel Road, are exposed to levels of NO<sub>2</sub> that are 82% higher than the average hospital in London: EDF Europe analysis using high resolution modelled NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> 2019 annual averages produced for the Breathe London pilot project.