

## Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) supports EAC's calls for greater Action on Air Quality

**For release on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2014**

**The Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) strongly supports the recommendations laid out in the report of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (EAC), 'Action on Air Quality'. The report is the result of the third EAC inquiry on air quality in five years, to which the IAQM submitted written evidence. Many of the recommendations made in this report, notably the need for a new Air Quality Strategy, reflect points consistently raised by the IAQM over the past few years.**

The headline recommendation of the inquiry is that the Air Quality Strategy of 2007 urgently needs updating. The IAQM strongly supports this finding, having consistently argued for some time that stronger, more coordinated government action on this issue is necessary. As noted in the Institute's submitted evidence, impetus on policy development seems to have slowed, "which is at odds with the steady accumulation of scientific evidence showing that some key airborne pollutants are associated with substantial public health effects".

The report calls for a coordinated approach across government and local authorities, citing the IAQM's evidence that "there is little evidence of concerted and effective action across Government to improve air quality. Defra is the department with the most interest in air quality, but has relatively little control over emissions, whereas DfT and DCLG could exert more influence but do not appear to have air quality as any priority."

The IAQM concurs, with calls for greater support and guidance for local authorities in the implementation and enforcement of air quality measures. The EAC report draws on the evidence of the Institute which argues that effective long term air quality management requires more strategic land use planning, despite the aim of the current government to decrease the volume of guidance it publishes.

Roger Barrowcliffe, Chair of the IAQM said of the report:

*"The report published today is an accurate diagnosis of the many air quality problems that we face and also provides clear advice on actions that could be taken to address these problems. The IAQM supports many of these recommendations and hopes that Government and others will act accordingly. On this occasion, unlike with previous reports on this subject, we cannot afford to be passive and hope the problems will simply recede of their own accord."*

The IAQM also supports the report's call for urgent action to meet EU NO<sub>2</sub> limit values; such action will be most effective if conducted as part of a coordinated Air Quality Strategy.

– ENDS –

### **Notes for editors**

1. The Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) is a professional body for air quality professionals. The IAQM represents over 300 air quality professionals working in the UK and abroad, and as such has a direct interest in the way government at all levels seeks to manage and improve air quality. The organisation aims to act as the voice of air quality in the UK by producing useful and timely guidance on matters affecting air quality professionals and by responding to Government consultations. For more information see: <http://iaqm.co.uk>. Administrative support for the IAQM is supplied by its sister organisation, the Institution of Environmental Sciences.
2. The Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) is a membership organisation that represents professionals from fields as diverse as air quality, land contamination and education - wherever you find environmental work underpinned by sound science. The organisation leads debate, dissemination and promotion of environmental science and sustainability, and promotes an evidence-based approach to decision and policy making. For more information about the Institution see: [www.the-ies.org](http://www.the-ies.org).
3. The full written submission from the IAQM and IES to the EAC inquiry is available at: <http://iaqm.co.uk/the-iaqm-submission-to-eac>.

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