

Dean Lockhart MSP, Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
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Dear Convener

In recent months the Scottish Government has published the 'Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 strategy'¹, Glasgow hosted the United Nation Climate Change Conference (COP26), the World Health Organisation (WHO) published updated Global Air Quality Guidelines², and Scotland's big four cities held consultations on Low Emission Zones (LEZs).

We are writing to you as Convener of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee to call for the Committee to hold a short inquiry or roundtable on air quality in Scotland following recent events, publications and consultations. As charities, third sector groups, academics and researchers with a strong interest in air quality, we are asking you and other committee members to agree to this call at the earliest opportunity.

Scotland's air quality has improved in recent decades, but we know there are no safe levels of air pollution. We strongly believe that more progress can be made with effective leadership, investment and political will. Whilst CAFS2 sets out an ambition to make Scotland have the best air quality in Europe, we are unconvinced that Scotland has the investment in its infrastructure and at all levels of government to achieve this ambition.

To ensure cleaner air there must be a greater focus on delivering an improved transport system that encourages use of public and active modes of transport. This will be a key driver in reducing private car emissions that are harmful to the health of children and young people, pregnant women, elderly people and those with existing lung and heart problems.

The following signatories represent charities and third sector bodies, academics and researchers from health, environment and transport areas. We look forward to a response on behalf of the Committee to our request for a short inquiry or roundtable.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Brown – Policy and Public Affairs Officer, Asthma UK and British Lung Foundation Scotland

Gavin Thomson – Air Pollution Campaigner, Friends of the Earth Scotland

Jane-Claire Judson – CEO, Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland

Stuart Hay – Director, Living Streets Scotland

John Lauder – Executive Director, Sustrans Scotland

David McColgan – Senior Policy and Public Affairs Manager, British Heart Foundation Scotland

Bruce Whyte – Public Health Programme Manager, Glasgow Centre for Population Health

Jim Pearson - Director of Policy and Practice, Alzheimer Scotland

Dr Heather Price - UKRI Regional Clean Air Champion (Scotland)

Dr Tom Fardon MB BChir MD FRCP FAcadME - Clinical Lead for the Scottish Respiratory Advisory Committee, Respiratory Lead for the Modernising Patient Pathways Program

Professor James D Chalmers MBChB, PhD, FRCPE, FERS - British Lung Foundation Chair of Respiratory Research, Consultant Respiratory Physician.

¹ [Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 - Towards a Better Place for Everyone - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/cleaner-air-for-scotland-2-towards-a-better-place-for-everyone/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

² [WHO global air quality guidelines: particulate matter \(PM2.5 and PM10\), ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide](https://www.who.int/airquality/guidelines)