

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy & Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament

27 October 2025

Dear Edward,

Petition 2123 – Air Quality Standards

Thank you for your letter of 8 October 2025 summarising issues raised by stakeholders in response to the above named petition. My letter of 22 April 2025 in response to your previous letter on this petition set out the Scottish Government's initial plans for developing and implementing a long term policy framework for air quality to succeed our Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 strategy when it expires in 2026.

Since I last wrote to you, we have established an air quality advisory group comprised of academics, researchers, medical professionals and consultants to provide independent expert advice to the Scottish Government as the new policy framework evolves. The group has identified some evidence gaps which should be addressed in order for robust and justifiable proposals for tighter air quality objectives to be put forward. My officials are currently working to assess how these evidence gaps can be most effectively filled.

In my previous response I confirmed that both the updated WHO guidelines and the updated EU Ambient Air Quality Directive will be taken into account as we develop our proposals, and this remains the case.

Over the remainder of this year and into the start of 2026 my officials will be engaging with our key stakeholders and delivery partners on the plans for the new framework.

I will be happy to provide further updates to the Committee as necessary.



GILLIAN MARTIN

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