Dear Graeme,

Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016 (SSI 2016/376)

Thank you for your letter of 15 December 2016.

The High Court judgement in relation to Client Earth v the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs refers only to the UK Government, with the Scottish Ministers, the devolved administrations of Wales and Northern Ireland and the Mayor of London named as interested parties.

The Scottish Government does not intend to make a formal response to the judgement. However we do plan to use this opportunity to consider whether revisions or updates to the Scottish air quality action plans are required, given that the UK Government is required by the judgement to do this for English plans and the overall UK plan. The High Court requires consultation on the revised plans to start by 24 April 2017, with final plans submitted to the European Commission by 31 July. The Scottish Government will liaise closely with the other UK administrations to ensure that any Scottish contribution to the revised plans is produced and submitted in compliance with this timetable.

In relation to Low Emission Zones (LEZs) the Programme for Government published in September 2016 commits to Scotland's first LEZ being in place by 2018. Work is ongoing to deliver this commitment. At the same time, a National Low Emission Framework (NLEF) is in development, through which further LEZs or other policy interventions to improve local air quality will be introduced from 2020 onwards. A consultation on the draft NLEF is scheduled for the first part of 2017.

I hope you and the Committee find this information helpful.

Yours,

ROSEANNA CUNNINGHAM

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