Dear Roseanna,

Air Quality in Scotland

I am writing regarding the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee forthcoming inquiry on Air Quality. At its meeting on 27 September, the Committee agreed its approach to this inquiry and as part of this agreed to write to you in advance to seek clarification on a number of points relating to Low Emission Zones.

While welcoming the ambition set out by the Scottish Government in the Programme for Government 2016-17 to introduce a pilot scheme for a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) within a Scottish local authority area, the Committee has a number of questions in relation to the establishment of the first LEZ and the intentions for further emission zones throughout the country by 2020. The Committee would welcome an update on progress on the establishment of a pilot scheme “by 2018”, including:

- when the announcement of the first LEZ scheme will be and how long you anticipate it will be between the announcements and the operation of the LEZ;
- what technological infrastructure will be required as part of the pilot;
- how the Scottish Government is working with local authorities to ensure that, in terms of air quality, the issue is not merely moved to the areas surrounding the LEZ;
- approximate timescales for implementation following the consultation of LEZ in Scotland’s four major cities; and
- the role and promotion of active travel in establishing the pilot scheme.

I appreciate that you touched upon some of these points in your recent statement in the Scottish Parliament’s Chamber on air quality.
The Committee requests a response from you to these points by **31 October 2017** and I look forward to hearing from you.

The Committee also agreed, as part of its inquiry, to invite you to give evidence at its meeting on Tuesday 5 December. I understand the Committee clerks have already been in touch with your officials with this date and I’m grateful for your positive response. Given the evidence the Committee has already received highlighting emissions from road traffic as being a major contributor to poor air quality, it has also agreed to invite the Minister for Transport and Islands to attend this session.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Graeme Dey MSP  
Convener  
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee