

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
(via email)

Dear George,

On behalf of the ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities subject to a Ministerial Direction, we are writing to inform you of significant new evidence emerging from a report we have commissioned about the impact of changes to the global supply chain for compliant vehicles, particularly Light Goods Vehicles, on the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan.

This report will be considered by the GM Air Quality Administration Committee on 20th January, and we will write to you again after the outcome of that meeting to confirm the decision taken. In the meantime, we are attaching a copy of the report for your attention and information and, in particular, so that there can be swift progress on this matter if the recommendations are agreed.

Greater Manchester Local Authorities have consistently stated that clean air is dependent on the ability of businesses and individuals to upgrade their vehicles and comply with the Category C Clean Air Zone that we have been directed to implement in order to achieve compliance with NO₂ levels in the shortest possible time and by no later than 2024. Supporting our businesses and individuals to make this transition with the right financial package is therefore essential, especially in light of significant economic hardship and the cost-of-living crisis.

Greater Manchester Local Authorities have also consistently identified the requirement for clear government oversight of supply chain issues as part of the critical path to compliance. The report highlights substantial evidence of significant price increases in the second-hand van market – the scale of those rises has a high degree of variability depending on the particular vehicle and range between 13% and almost 60%. Clearly, these are global and national supply chain issues that are outside of Greater Manchester's control.

As you will see from the attached report, the Greater Manchester Air Quality Administration Committee has therefore been recommended to write to the Secretary of State, requesting that you agree to pause the opening of the next phase of Clean Air Funds at the end of this month, in order to enable an urgent and fundamental joint policy review with Government that will identify how a revised policy can be agreed to manage LGV supply chain issues and support local businesses' ability to comply with the GM Clean Air Plan. The review will also extend to the other vehicles that would have been addressed by our second

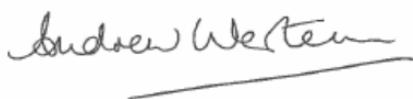
phase of funds, including taxi and private hire vehicles. You will be aware that the Ministerial Direction requires your written permission to vary the local plan.

The Committee is also expected to note that all other aspects of the agreed GM Clean Air Plan will continue to the schedule previously agreed.

Greater Manchester stands ready to work with and support government to understand the impact of these issues at pace and to agree how we can best comply with the ministerial direction and ultimately tackle the harmful air pollution which is detrimental to our residents' health. We would like to request an urgent meeting with you to discuss this matter and to agree how we can best work with you and your colleagues from across government, particularly within the Department for Transport and BEIS, to find the right solution to these unprecedented issues.

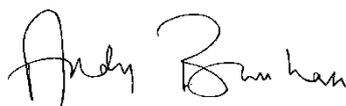
In the meantime, we have instructed our officials to arrange an urgent meeting with senior officials from the Joint Air Quality Unit to set out our emerging evidence and to understand how Greater Manchester can best support an urgent programme of work to deliver a fundamental policy review.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR ANDREW WESTERN

**Portfolio Lead for Clean Air,
Chair of the Greater Manchester Air
Quality Administration Committee and
Leader of Trafford MBC**



ANDY BURNHAM

**Mayor of Greater Manchester,
Chair of the Greater Manchester
Combined Authority**

on behalf of Greater Manchester Leaders

cc

Jo Churchill MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Agri-Innovation and Climate Adaptation) - DEFRA

Trudy Harrison MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – DfT