



# Environmental Audit Committee

14 Tothill Street, London, SW1P 3JA  
Tel 020 7219 4524 Email [eacom@parliament.uk](mailto:eacom@parliament.uk) Website [www.parliament.uk/eacom](http://www.parliament.uk/eacom)

Boris Johnson  
Mayor of London  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA

29 October 2014

Dear Boris,

## Air Quality: Kings College research

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to raise our concern about correspondence between your office and Kings College. An article in the *Times* on 24 October reported that your office had written to Kings disputing the significance of air quality data for Oxford Street and potentially implying that GLA funding for Kings air pollution research might be at risk. Today we have published on our website written evidence from Clean Air in London which also refers to the Oxford Street data and to what appears to be the same correspondence from your office (which CAL has published — [http://cleanair.london/wp-content/uploads/CAL-288-GLA-letter-to-KCL-dated-140714 Letters-only.pdf](http://cleanair.london/wp-content/uploads/CAL-288-GLA-letter-to-KCL-dated-140714%20Letters-only.pdf)).

The challenge of tackling air pollution in our cities will need not just practical steps such as appropriate vehicle standards and low emissions zones, but research to underpin policies and greater public awareness informed by the results of that research. We have taken evidence from Kings for our ongoing air quality inquiry and Members of our Committee have with Kings' help monitored their own air pollution exposure.

It would be regrettable if the important work of universities and others to advance our understanding of these air pollution challenges were undermined, or its results suppressed, because of fears over access to funding. We would appreciate your assurance that GLA funding decisions will not be influenced by the way research findings are presented by Kings (or indeed other researchers), and that looking ahead your office will make it clear to all concerned that it will not seek to influence the publication of the research results.

Sincerely,

Joan Walley MP  
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee