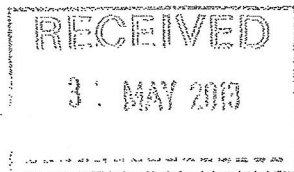


Simon Birkett
Clean Air in London
1st Floor, James House
Mere Park
Dedmere Road
Marlow
SL7 1FJ



Date: 28 May 2013

Dear Simon

Dust on the London Underground

Thank you for letter of 25 April to the Mayor regarding dust on the Underground. He has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The safety of London Underground's staff and passengers is LU's top priority and, as part of this, Transport for London (TfL) has assured me that it maintains dust levels as low as reasonably practicable. I understand that TfL has made you aware of the independent report by the Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM) which concluded that dust on the Underground is highly unlikely to be damaging to passengers or to cause damage to the health of staff. Regular monitoring carried out on behalf of TfL shows that the levels of dust on the Underground are stable and are well below the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) limit for general dust, meaning levels are safe for both staff and customers.

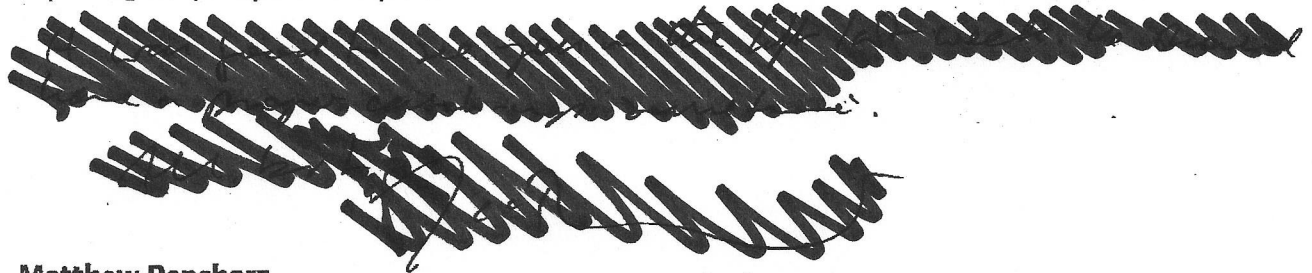
The independent dust monitoring done for TfL includes both static and personal exposure monitoring. Where possible, staff wear the sampling pumps throughout their entire shift or for an 8 hour period. Static monitoring only takes place at locations where staff are not working during the monitoring period and to support the exposure monitoring. An example of this would be setting up a static monitor on a platform for an 8 hour period because staff usually only work on the platform for a 2 hour period before moving to another station location. Monitoring on trains is always exposure monitoring. Train Operators wear the sampling pump throughout their shift. This exposure monitoring allows us to compare our response to the HSE's Workplace Exposure Levels (WELs).

TfL compares dust levels with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) limits rather than the IOM or TUC recommendations because the HSE is the enforcing body which sets the limits we must comply with. As previously stated, in December 2011 the HSE updated its guidance on Workplace Exposure Limits in EH40/2005 Workplace exposure limits and the WELs for general dust remained the same despite the IOM and TUC guidance. TfL made this clear in its response to you in January 2012.

TfL's letter to you in January 2012 stated that it is highly unlikely that tunnel dust on the Underground is a health risk to staff or passengers. TfL takes the health and safety of its passengers and staff very seriously and is confident that dust exposure remains as low as reasonably practical and there is no significant risk to health. TfL's specialist team and Occupational Health team continue to compare dust results and staff exposure to the HSE Workplace Exposure Limits (WEL) and would investigate the cause of any significant increase at a location or on a tube line even if the dust levels are below the WEL.

TfL had agreed to publish further information on air quality on its website. This has been delayed due to a major review of the TfL web site and many non-travel related updates have been put on hold. TfL has reviewed the information on the website and once the restriction on adding new information has been removed, information on air quality, tunnel dust and the impact of this dust will be added to the website. TfL apologises for the delay in progressing this action, but assures me that it will take place as soon as practical.

As you are aware, the actions by TfL are in addition to the broader measures being taken by the Mayor to improve air quality across London, including measures to raise awareness. Taken together, I hope you will agree with me that these measures underline the Mayor's commitment to improving air quality in the capital.



Matthew Pencharz
Environment Advisor to the Mayor of London