

[REDACTED] (ERG-ALE)

From: [REDACTED] (ERG-ALE)
Sent: 22 March 2012 17:04
To: [REDACTED] (SEG-PRO); [REDACTED] (SEG-PRO); Williamson, Tim (ERG-ALE);
[REDACTED] (ERG-ALE); [REDACTED] (ERG-ALE); [REDACTED] (ERG-ALE);
Instone, Daniel (ERG) [REDACTED] (ALE)
Cc: [REDACTED] (ERG-ALE); [REDACTED] (ERG-ALE)
Subject: Actions from Meeting on Ozone alerts etc on 20 March 2012

Further to the meeting we had this week on ozone and pollution alerts generally. Thanks to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for joining us this was a useful meeting. I have summarised what we agreed and the actions arising below for comment and so we have a record of these.

What was agreed in the meeting

We discussed the background to public information provision for air pollution and the various information sources available. We also reviewed the history of reporting especially in light of the episode at the end of last week and also the media interest in the alert put out last Easter. We agreed that we should provide an annual information note at around the end of March which would highlight information sources on air pollution in readiness for possible events and that we should issue the first of these notices this year. This would also announce that we would issue a tweet should a high be forecast. Further consideration was needed about the exact circumstances under which we would do this but it was agreed this approach would be helpful in highlighting the availability of the information services on levels of pollution and also respond to critics that Defra was idly standing by. Actions agreed from the meeting were:

1. [REDACTED] would draft an information notice announcing the arrangements as described above and circulate for comment with a view to agreeing by the end of next week.
2. Tim would prepare a flow chart/process diagram setting out how the arrangements for tweets might operate taking into account that AEA provided the forecasting services and that this might have resource implications for them (and SET).
3. It was agreed that an arrangement was needed for handling the forecasting of highs at weekends. Whilst anyone notified of the forecast could alert press office for the tweet service this would have to fit in with the process set out by Tim (under action 2)
4. Press Office agreed to provide some Qs for consideration and response by ALE and would also review the Q and A they already had to ensure it was robust
5. It was agreed that we should seek to link this work to stronger messaging on measures although this might have to follow on from the initial information notice.

If necessary a further meeting can be convened to finalise the arrangements. We should also consider when to put out the notice. Ideally this should be done sooner rather than later but perhaps not over the Easter Weekend if we can avoid it?

Grateful for any comments or missed actions.

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<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/airquality/index.htm>