

## Wolmar for London<<http://www.wolmarforlondon.co.uk/>>

Christian Wolmar's campaign for London Mayor

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# Air quality scandal from the do-nothing mayor

*The figures obtained by the Clean Air Campaign ( <http://cleanairinlondon.org/sources/carcinogenic-diesel-exhaust-disclosed-for-every-significant-road-in-london/> ) are more than simply shocking. They are scandalous, especially given the wholly inadequate response of the mayor.*

*They show what we knew already – that there is only one response to the poor air quality in Britain's premier shopping street, Oxford Street, and that is full pedestrianisation, something that I have been advocating long before I started the mayoral campaign.*

*But the figures reveal, too, that this is not just a central London issue. Quite apart from the North Circular Road being high on the list of poisonous roads, places such as Reigate and Twickenham suffer from poor air quality because of the traffic.*

*Boris Johnson announced a paltry £5m programme to deal with air pollution problems, but has signally failed to address the central issue, which is reducing car use. He has plans for 2020 when he knows he will not be around but none for tackling the issue now.*

*Take one example. Taxis are particularly polluting because of the need to use the existing models. Newer, far less polluting vehicles are available but do not comply with the current requirements over turning circles. But that is a redundant need in these days of heavy traffic and anyway, what is wrong with a 3 point turn. Therefore, at a stroke, the mayor could change the rules and begin to reduce pollution. But he is the do-nothing mayor.*



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