



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Dr Therese Coffey MP
From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Cllr Chris Poulter
Derby City Council
The Council House
Corporation Street
Derby
DE1 2FS

10 September 2018

Dear Cllr Poulter

Your local authority received a Ministerial Direction requiring you to provide by 15 September 2018 a Full Business Case for your local plan to deliver compliance with statutory nitrogen dioxide concentration limits in the shortest possible time. I wrote to Cllr Banwait on 23 March expressing my concern at the pace of development of Derby's local plan.

Since then I appreciate that there has been a change in Council leadership, both at officer and political levels, and that you have needed time to get up to speed on the particular nitrogen dioxide issues and the options for addressing them in the shortest possible time. I also note the close working between the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) and the Derby project team. This has resulted in clearer proposals for delivering compliance which are now subject to a public consultation closing on 24 September.

I do understand why you are now likely to miss the September deadline, given the circumstances referred to above. You have signified that it will take until late 2018 for the Full Business Case to be submitted. This needs to be accelerated. Improving air quality and the associated effects of poor air quality on public health is a government priority. I am very clear that local authorities must deliver plans so that nitrogen dioxide compliance is achieved as quickly as possible.

I urge you to provide the Full Business Case as soon as possible. I request that you provide by 15 September an assessment of the impact that this potential slippage has and confirmation that it will not delay delivering nitrogen dioxide compliance. If there are further delays in providing the Full Business Case beyond the 30 November 2018, you will also wish to consider the risks of missing the legal deadline and the serious associated consequences.

I have advised my officials that I wish to be kept closely informed of progress and I look forward to receiving the complete Outline Business Case with full supporting evidence. JAQU have recently reviewed initial evidence to support your proposals and sent detailed feedback that will need to be taken into account, particularly in relation to the Clean Air Incentive Scheme. I believe that you are reconsidering the scale and purpose of this Scheme

Given the public interest in improving air quality, I will be publishing this letter on gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

DR THERESE COFFEY