

FOI

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**From:** Chemicals.london  
**Sent:** 09 December 2013 12:23  
**To:** /  
**Subject:** FW: Pollution from Incineration of Municipal Waste  
**Importance:** High

You flagged this up on Thu? Can you follow this up?

You also flagged something else up on Fri

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 December 2013 11:45  
**To:** Chemicals.london  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** re: Pollution from Incineration of Municipal Waste

Dear Health Protection Agency,

Further to my email of 5th December 2013.

I refer you to the below report in todays Dally Mirror:

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/health/447529/Even-safe-levels-of-air-pollution-can-harm-your-health>

## Even 'safe' levels of air pollution can harm your health

**AIR pollution can kill – even at so-called "safe" levels, according to the latest research.**

Scientists have found that being exposed to levels well below European air quality limits is a major health risk.

In fact, prolonged exposure to particles of soot or dust in traffic fumes or industrial emissions may be more deadly than previously thought.

Research examining 20 years of data from 360,000 city residents in 13 European countries shows an increase of five microgrammes per cubic metre in annual exposure to fine-particle air pollution raises the risk of death by natural causes seven per cent.

Lead researcher Dr Rob Beelen, of Utrecht University in the Netherlands, said: "A difference of five microgrammes per cubic metre can be found between a location at a busy urban road and at a location not influenced by traffic.

"Our findings support health impact assessments of fine particles in Europe previously based almost entirely on North American studies."

Published in The Lancet, the research looked at data from 22 different studies. Annual average air pollution concentrations of nitrogen oxides and particulates were linked to home addresses and exposures estimated. Traffic density on the nearest road and total traffic load on major roads within 110 yards of the home were also recorded.

A total of 29,076 people died of natural causes during a follow-up period of just under 14 years.

Results showed that long-term exposure to fine particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres (PM2.5) posed the greatest threat – even within concentration ranges well below EU limits.

