

Post Opening Tracking Sheet

PO Pile

****THIS IS A CONTACT CASE****

1. Date Post Opened and Scanned -

2. CONTACT Case Ref No. -

3. Allocated to -

4. Private Office issued to (please circle)

Spelman Paice Benyon Taylor

To be completed by Private Office

5. Date and time arrived in PO -

6. Handling Instructions

Level of urgency (Please circle) -

HIGH

MEDIUM

LOW

Handle as (Please circle) -

MC

PO

DWO

INVITE

OGD

No Reply

(MC = MP Letter Min Reply, PO = Stakeholder letter Min Reply, DWO = Official reply, OGD = Other Government Department Reply)

Minister signing (if applicable) Please circle -

SPELMAN

PAICE

BENYON

TAYLOR

Lead Policy Division -

Lead Policy Official -

Any other comments -

ALL air quality re Boris Johnson

7. Date and time returned to CCU to action -

8. Date and time arrived in the CCU -

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR QA AND OTHER DETAILS

	
RECEIVED	
22 JUN 2012	

	

QA Comments

Date submitted to Private Office:

Rejected in Private Office: Y ☐ N ☐

Date submitted to Minister:

If applicable: (a) date returned by Minister to Private Office for further action

(b) date returned to CCU for further action

(e) date re-submitted to Private Office by CCU

(f) date re-submitted to Minister

Date returned to CCU

Comments (if any)

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Mayor's Office

Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP

Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs
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Date:

18 JUN 2012

Dear Caroline

On 4 May I was given the enormous honour and responsibility of representing the people of London for a second term as their Mayor. Over the next four years, promoting jobs and growth will be my priority and I will be doing everything in my power to help drive London's economy forward and secure Londoners' futures.

Environmental issues will be absolutely key to this agenda – only by making London an attractive and clean place to live and do business will we be able to generate the growth that we all want to see in our capital. To this end I have a number of key environmental priorities which I thought it would be helpful to set out for you. These are:

Air Quality

In my Air Quality Strategy I set out the pressing importance of improving London's air, both to ensure that we remain well below the legal limits and to ensure a high quality of life for London's residents and workers. We have already made significant achievements – the new Low Emission Zone (LEZ) standards improving emissions from 150,000 vehicles from January 2012, the retrofitting of more than 66,000 homes and a pipeline of 400 public buildings with energy efficiency measures, and the creation of my first Clean Air Fund, with £5 million of funding from DfT, which has targeted innovative pollution reduction measures at key London locations – to name but three.

Even as we power ahead with these important schemes, I know we both fully recognise the scale of the challenge that faces us, and this is why it is imperative that Government departments work closely with the GLA to ensure we are doing everything we can to fight air pollution. To this end I would strongly encourage Government to focus more funding to improve air quality on London, given the specific issues we face in the capital. Key issues that I believe need to be urgently considered are:

- Ensuring all London buses meet a minimum Euro IV standard by 2015. This would involve the early replacement of 900 Euro III.

- Additional resources and enhanced action from Government to reduce the NO2 compliance gap, including a NOx certification and testing scheme, extended scrappage schemes for boilers and old vehicles, and grants for vehicle retrofits.
- Strong support in the Government's EU lobbying for additional resources for London, including a dedicated urban clean air fund.
- More resources for local authorities to tackle local pollution hotspots, with a ring-fenced amount for London boroughs to reflect the greater air quality challenges the capital faces.
- The review of the Clean Air Act, and how we can use this once-in-a-generation opportunity to put in place an appropriate and up-to-date framework for improving air quality across the UK.

The London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB)

As you know, LWARB is undertaking important and groundbreaking work, supporting the development of essential infrastructure and delivering significant efficiency savings for local authorities. LWARB's current pipeline of funded and committed projects will, in addition to construction-related jobs, generate in excess of 300 permanent jobs, over 100 trainee opportunities, and leverage at least £210 million worth of external investment in London. We cannot underestimate the long-term importance of these investments for our economy and also to achieving our shared environmental goals. Many of LWARB's projects, such as the development of a state of the art gasification plant at Ford Dagenham, and the UK's first plastic film reprocessing plant, are of national importance and will have long-lasting effects on the capital's energy supply, and deliver significant environmental benefits. LWARB is working with a number of waste authorities in London to examine opportunities for joint procurement, shared services and contract efficiency reviews. LWARB estimates that its work in this area will deliver millions of pounds of savings over the course of its 4 year efficiency programme.

It is therefore crucial that LWARB is able to continue investing in London's future, and with the forthcoming appointment of a new Chair and Board I strongly expect to see an increased focus on jobs and skills for the future. It is for this reason that we are seeking a £20 million capital injection into LWARB to the end of the current CSR period which will ensure it can continue to deliver savings and crucial investment.

Water

I am committed to tackling water poverty in London, and am looking forward to working with DEFRA when the Draft Water Bill is published to ensure that it delivers for the people of London. I am determined to help those people in London who struggle to pay their water bills, and the GLA is developing a unique programme, in conjunction with key stakeholders, to help such people through measures including retrofitting and better consumer advice. DEFRA's support for this work will be invaluable.

On the Drain London project, which has delivered over £1 million of savings through London-level, rather than borough-level, procurement, I will continue to work with all London Boroughs in their role as Lead Local Flood Authorities to deliver a programme of projects to help Londoners understand, plan for and build resilience to flood risk.

The Thames Tunnel

As you know there are significant concerns across London about the financial and construction impacts of the Thames Tunnel project, and it will be important that we work together to ensure that these concerns are addressed and that we tackle sewage discharge problems in a way that is cost-effective and minimises disruption to Londoners. I am particularly concerned about the impacts at Carnwath Road. It appears to me that this is an inappropriate site and Thames Water must look at this again and come forward with other solutions. I hope to speak to Richard Benyon on this issue soon and would be interested in your further thoughts on the matter.

Single-use plastic bags

As you know, I am determined to help London greatly reduce its use of plastic bags to enjoy the lasting environmental and economic benefits that such a move would bring. I was grateful for Lord Taylor's response to my letter of 19 December and his acknowledgement that increased proliferation of polluting and unsightly single-use plastic bags is unacceptable and needs to be urgently addressed. I would welcome any Government initiatives in this area and will have my officers get in contact with your Department to discuss how we can work together to tackle this unsightly and wasteful problem.

Dangerous Dogs

I strongly welcome the DEFRA consultation on dangerous dogs, as addressing the proliferation of weapon dogs in London is very important. I am particularly pleased that you are looking to extend the Dangerous Dogs Act to include attacks on private land, and in my consultation response I shall be making a particular case for tougher sentences for criminals who use dogs as weapons, as well as for those who have a dog that is dangerously out of control or own a banned breed.

Clearly all these areas are extremely important to my overall vision for London, and to help me take my objectives forward I have appointed Matthew Pencharz as my Environment Advisor.

I know Matthew has already had a useful meeting with Amy Fisher and is keen to have further meetings with appropriate ministers to make progress on the issues we have in common. We both look forward to working closely with you and your Department to ensure that London's unique needs are recognised and acted upon.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

