



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

**Dr Thérèse Coffey MP**  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
for the Environment

T 03459 335577  
defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

Dr Carolyn Wilkins  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Council  
Level 3, Civic Centre  
West Street, Oldham  
OL1 1UG

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Our ref: PO2019/00098/DG

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*See Dr Wilkins,*

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2018 to the Secretary of State about air quality in Oldham. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I welcome your commitment to improve air quality in Oldham and to supporting the work of the GMCA to deliver the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan (GM CAP). I look forward to receiving the final GM CAP which should include credible measures that would enable compliance with NO<sub>2</sub> limit values across the region including Oldham in the shortest possible time.

We remain committed to our ambition for Britain to lead the world in electric vehicle technology and use. Our ambitious plan for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040 was set out in our recently published 'Road to Zero' Strategy, supporting our goal to end the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by the same date, as set out in the 2017 NO<sub>2</sub> plan. This ambition will help ensure we deliver our air quality and greenhouse gas reduction ambitions.

To achieve our ambitions, we are investing nearly £1.5 billion between April 2015 and March 2021. To help put in place early measures to help address air quality, in 2017 Greater Manchester was awarded £3m to support projects to upgrade and expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the region.

We continue to offer grants for plug-in cars, vans, taxis and motorcycles until at least 2020. However, we regularly review the rates and criteria of the grant to ensure it is effective and provides good value for money. That is why we are now focussing our support on zero emission models, such as the Nissan Leaf and the BMW i3. The plug-in car grant was designed to kick-start the early market for electric vehicles, which has developed massively since the grant launched in 2011. As prices come down, it is right that Government lowers subsidy to ensure value for money for the taxpayer. The Government will continue to offer other incentives for ultra-low emission vehicles, such as lower car tax.

Yours sincerely,

DR THERESE COFFEY MP

