



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

**The Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP**  
From the Secretary of State for Environment, Food  
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*Dear Professor Ziarati*

Thank you for your letter of 4 October and for your kind words of congratulation. I am delighted to have been appointed Environment Secretary. It is a huge privilege to be responsible for protecting and enhancing our natural environment, and for championing our food, farming and fishing sectors. I am grateful for your invitation to the Midland Engineering Dinner on 18 October and I apologise for the delay in replying. Unfortunately, due to the huge number of invitations I received, it was not possible to attend on this occasion.

The Government has invested £3.5 billion in plans to reduce harmful emissions from road transport and last year we published the Road to Zero strategy, which sets our comprehensive approach to reduce emissions from road vehicles and meet our 2040 mission to end the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans.

Poor air quality can affect health at all stages of life, and those most affected are the vulnerable groups. We model the interaction between pollutant emissions and the resulting local concentrations to better understand the impacts of air pollution in terms of human exposure. A multi-day air quality forecast service is available to the public on the UK-Air website, with postcode search facility to enable information to be provided at a local level. Our Daily Air Quality Index assists in understanding air pollution levels and suggests recommended actions and health advice for anyone who is experiencing symptoms. During episodes of elevated air pollution Defra works closely with Public Health England and a network of health charities to ensure that key health messages are communicated to those who are vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, in addition to communicating through our normal digital channels.

Regards,

**Theresa Villiers**