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Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation
UK Statistics Authority
[by email]

Date: 15 March 2017

Dear Ed,

In response to your letter of 6th February re Defra statistics on the implications, in terms of human health, of air pollution.

We recognise and accept the criticism re the completeness of the commentary provided in the Defra report 'Valuing impacts on air quality: Updates in valuing changes in emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) and concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)'.

As you know this is an area of public policy that Defra, along with other partners across government, continue to focus on – and hence we welcome the feedback. The Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollution (COMEAP) continue to consider how estimates of health impacts of NO2 can be refined on the basis of a more detailed analysis of the medical literature, and intend to publish updated estimates with a more complete commentary that reflects the uncertainties inherent in quantifying health impacts. I understand that COMEAP is currently planning to publish its advice this summer. This will enable Defra to update its analysis – and we intend do so as soon as is possible thereafter hence replacing the original report.

Kind Regards

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cc:

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