

Air Quality Strategy

Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health Committee

The Secretary of State has clearly set out the reasons for the delay, but in the intervening time, may I encourage her to strengthen our policies to encourage people to get out of their cars altogether? May I also urge her to read an article in this week's edition of The BMJ that clearly sets out the growing evidence of the benefits of active commuting, particularly by bicycle? Will she encourage us to get Britain cycling?

Andrea Leadsom The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

My hon. Friend is right to raise that issue. The Government are a huge supporter of sustainable transport projects. We have invested Â£224 million in cycling since 2013, and Â£600 million in the delivery of transport projects across 77 local authorities through the local sustainable transport fund. As my hon. Friend says, we must do everything that we can to protect the quality of the air in our cities, and that includes changing the way in which people travel.

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