Local Council

Address

Postcode

Co.

XX/XX/XXXX

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

I am writing to you following the recent publication of the Asthma + Lung UK Northern Ireland Domestic Burning report for the Winter 2024/25 period, which was launched on Clean Air Night 22nd January 2025.

Air pollution from wood burning has steadily increased over the last thirty years, to the point where it is now the second largest source of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution in Northern Ireland after emissions created by construction and manufacturing industries. Across the UK, PM2.5 emissions from burning wood as a fuel have increased by 89% since 2010[[1]](#footnote-1).

Whilst transport and industrial activity contribute significantly to air pollution, domestic fuel burning produces more emissions in NI than in other parts of the UK[[2]](#footnote-2). We need to combat domestic burning now!

There is no safe level of air pollution to breathe in. An air pollutant is any substance in the air that could harm people. Particulate Matter (known as PM), and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) are particularly damaging.

When people are exposed to high pollution levels, for example next to a busy road or during a high pollution episode, they breathe in these toxic materials. Many experience immediate symptoms such as irritated airways, breathlessness, and coughing. People with a lung condition suffer further with high levels of air pollution. Toxins can exacerbate symptoms, cause an asthma attack or a COPD flare-up.

In the report, there are a number of actions outlined for Local Councils, and as my Councillor I would appreciate it if you would explore options around reviewing current Smoke Control Areas in addition to considering a Council application to the Department for Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs to increase the air quality monitoring station network in our Borough.

I believe public opinion is firmly behind this report and the suggested recommendations and it would be great to have your support in our Council. 76.9% of people with a lung condition who responded to a 2024 Asthma + Lung UK on air quality across the UK said that they are concerned about their own and their families health and wellbeing, whilst 78.5% said they support the introduction of a clean air zone in their area.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The report and the 10 policy recommendations can be accessed in full via this link: [bit.ly/4hkn9bw](https://t.co/apYWGiQhQt)

I would appreciate your views and any action you can initiate.

Yours sincerely,

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1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/emissions-of-air-pollutants> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/northern-ireland-manifesto-prevent-it> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Opinion Matters polling for Asthma + Lung UK Northern Ireland (2024) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)