



The Rt. Hon. Danny Alexander MP  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

By email: [public.enquiries@hm-treasury.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@hm-treasury.gov.uk)

Dear Chief Secretary

### **Electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak train line**

Clean Air in London (CAL) is writing to urge you to ensure that HM Treasury contributes to the electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak train line.

CAL understands that Transport for London (TfL) is willing to contribute to the cost, so a relatively modest sum only is needed from HM Treasury. I understand you have indicated that a positive decision could be made in June 2013, stating "I hope it will be possible to consider this proposal again for the spending round in June".

<http://www.london.gov.uk/media/assembly-press-releases/2013/04/government-s-opportunity-to-review-gospel-oak-barking-line>

Most important from CAL's perspective is the urgent need to reduce air pollution by eliminating diesel trains from a 12-mile stretch of railway line running from east London to Camden.

You will be aware the World Health Organisation classified diesel exhaust as carcinogenic for humans last year [http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2012/pdfs/pr213\\_E.pdf](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2012/pdfs/pr213_E.pdf). The Mayor has also said "Sources [of pollution] such as aviation, rail, shipping and industrial sites do not constitute a significant portion of London-wide emissions to air, but they can make a critical contribution to local air pollution hotspots" (Mayor's Air Quality Strategy, page 21). Central and inner London includes many such 'hotspots'. Please ensure HM Treasury considers fully air quality benefits.

I am copying the current and former Chairs of the Transport Committee of the London Assembly. Caroline Pidgeon AM has been a particularly active campaigner on this issue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Simon Birkett  
Founder and Director  
Clean Air in London

cc:

Boris, Johnson, Mayor of London  
Valerie Shawcross AM, CBE, Chair, Transport Committee, London Assembly  
Caroline Pidgeon AM, MBE, Deputy Chair, Transport Committee, London Assembly