

Robbie Moore MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Water and Rural Growth)
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sent by email to robbie.moore.mp@parliament.uk

Thursday 18 April 2024

Local Air Quality Grant Scheme – next steps

Dear Minister,

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Industries Commission (EIC) and the Chair of EIC's Air Quality Taskforce, we write on behalf of our members following the Government's announcement on the Local Air Quality Grant Scheme and the news that the funding allocation of £6m is to be withheld.

The EIC represents companies, large and small, working in the environmental services and technologies sector. Comprised of technical specialists, dedicated professionals, and cutting-edge innovations, our members have the knowledge and expertise to advise, guide, and facilitate the delivery of green growth within the U.K. economy.

The announcement by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has prompted significant concern among many of our members. Local authorities, many of whom have been supported by EIC members, have invested time and public money to navigate the application process.

The 2023 Air Quality Strategy framework highlights the important role that local authorities have to play in delivering air quality improvements. The absence of DEFRA funding may force local leaders to curtail their ongoing work to enhance air quality. This not only jeopardises the progress achieved to date, but also raises concerns about the sustainability of funding for other air quality schemes, such as the NO2 Programme.

In light of these concerns, we believe it is important that you and the Department provide greater clarity on next steps for the fund. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the Government's plans in the interim. Additionally, we are keen to explore how EIC members can help the Department to deliver its environmental objectives.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Jennings

Chief Executive Officer

Environmental Industries Commission

Sarah Horrocks

Chair, Air Quality Taskforce

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