



Environmental  
Protection  
Scotland



## Newsletter

March 2018

Welcome to this month's special Brexit edition of the newsletter. Today, March 29 2018, marks exactly one year until Britain leaves the EU.

The environmental impact of Britain's departure cannot be over-estimated, but the mainstream agenda has been seemingly dominated by debates about migration, trade deals, and a 'hard border' between Northern Ireland and southern Ireland.

EPS earlier this month interviewed the former Environment Secretary Lord Deben, who as John Gummer MP played an instrumental role in environmental policy in the 1990s that led to the creation of SEPA. The Remain supporter pulled no punches about what he sees as the benefits of Britain remaining in the EU from an environmental and other perspectives.

EPS also attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Quality Conference at Arup's headquarters in London. We have compiled an extensive report from the event, which provides fresh insights into the efforts being made to improve air quality in the UK from campaigners, planners and Government policy on electric vehicles. We hope the report, and others from future conferences, will provide a very useful overview for your work.

Glasgow's LEZ plans have moved forward with a draft report on the plans – which will see 20% of buses expected to be Euro VI compliant from almost midnight on December 31 2018 - debated by councillors last week and submitted to the city's administration committee.

Meanwhile, the major fire that swept through Victoria's nightclub last week appeared to have little impact on overall air quality in the immediate vicinity. Fortunately, the plumes of smoke were carried by the wind north of the city, and none of the equipment registered a rise in particulates, according to information provided to EPS.

With 83 days to go until Clean Air Day, the team at EPS are pressing ahead with some exciting developments with huge enthusiasm from the 32 local authorities many of whom are keen to get involved.

Meanwhile, our colleagues at EPUK have won the support of England's Chief Medical Officer in the campaign against neighbourhood noise nuisance for Noise Action Week from 21 to 26 May 2018.

It has been a busy start to the year and we would like to wish our members a Happy Easter.

## Interview with The Right Honourable the Lord Deben

**'Thanks to the EU Britain is no longer the dirty man of Europe' – John Gummer**

One year from today, Britain will leave the European Union.

But the environment has barely made a ripple in a debate dominated by other issues. So what does the future hold beyond the leaving date of Friday, March 29 2019?

The Right Honourable the Lord Deben, John Gummer, is better placed than most to discuss the impact of Brexit on air quality, land and noise issues.

He is Britain's longest serving Environment Secretary. He held the post from 1993 to 1997 in John Major's Conservative Government. He introduced the Environment Act, which created the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Environment Agency at a time when Britain was known as the 'dirty man of Europe' for its filthy beaches and poor quality of drinking water.

He was also behind the UK's first environmental levy, the Landfill Tax in 1996, and led Britain and Ireland's commitment to substantially cut greenhouse gas emissions in the run up to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Read more [here](#)



## Clean Air Day 2018 Update

The plans for Clean Air Day on Thursday June 21 are progressing well. There are now just 83 days to go until the event, with all 32 of Scotland's local authorities contacted and showing a great deal of enthusiasm – ranging from the communications teams to environmental health officers and education officers – towards taking part in events to raise awareness of how people can contribute to improving air quality.

We hope a display of electric vehicles will take place in George Square, Glasgow, on the day itself and have been in discussions with Home Energy Scotland and other organisations about providing electric cars and bikes for the event in order to encourage people to consider buying an EV.

The overall message will again focus on what actions individuals can take to improve overall air quality in Scotland. The updated toolkits for this year are currently being prepared and will be available for download from the Scotland section of the Clean Air Day website after Easter. This can be found at [www.cleanairday.org.uk](http://www.cleanairday.org.uk)

We thank you for all your continued support and the event promises to be a big success.

## Noise Action Week 21-26 May 2018



England's Chief Medical Officer Dame Sally Davies has compared the problem of noise pollution to the nation's addiction to junk food as she gave her backing to Noise Action Week.

This annual event, co-ordinated by Environmental Protection UK runs from May 21 to 26, and will focus on the public health impact from neighbourhood noise.

Problems with sound from pubs, clubs, live music venues along with the noise from properties with multiple numbers of occupants are the key themes.

Surveys have found 80% of people are exposed to noise pollution at home and nearly half of people are bothered by intrusive traffic noise in their properties. Read more [here](#)

## Have your say on future EPS Events

We would like members to let us know what sort of events they would like us to run in 2018. We have come up with suggestions for possible conferences/workshops and would like your input to help shape the varied agenda we offer. We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to provide some feedback as to what would work well for you, and what you would like to see from the events you attend. To complete the survey, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XBTWSLL>

## Useful Quick Links

On March 20, Glasgow City Council's Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Policy Committee agreed to put forward the latest proposals for the Low Emission Zone to the City Administration Committee. It was announced Glasgow's LEZ would begin at 11.59pm on December 31 2018, with a phased introduction. A total of 20 % bus journeys into, out of and through the LEZ will be required to be compliant with the latest Euro VI emission standards, with work being undertaken on some of the 1,000 buses currently not compliant through retro-fitting. The figure will rise to 40 % of buses by December 2019, with all buses expected to comply to the minimum standard by the end of 2022. The subsequent phasing will apply to all vehicle types, unless exempted. The Scottish Government has allocated £10.8 for LEZ delivery in the city, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee. A report is being prepared for the Traffic Commissioner who will need to impose Traffic Regulation Conditions to ensure enforcement of Glasgow's LEZ. The plans can be found at <http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=P62AFQDN2U2UUTDN2U>

The Air Quality in Scotland Inquiry was published by the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee on February 28. It contains a recommendation for more transparent progress reports from the Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) strategy to show how it is delivering against each individual action. The full report by MSPs can be found at <https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/ECCLR/2018/2/28/Air-Quality-in-Scotland-Inquiry/ECCLRS052018R1.pdf>

We are a member of EFCA, which provides a valuable resource and gathering point for national associations from across Europe, who are heavily involved in air pollution control and environmental protection. Headquartered in southern Germany, EFCA uses sound scientific evidence to underpin its contribution to seeking solutions to Europe's environmental problems, using feasible technology, which is cost effective and politically acceptable. EFCA's latest newsletter is available via this link [http://www.ep-scotland.org.uk/EFCA-Newsletter\\_March-2018.pdf](http://www.ep-scotland.org.uk/EFCA-Newsletter_March-2018.pdf)

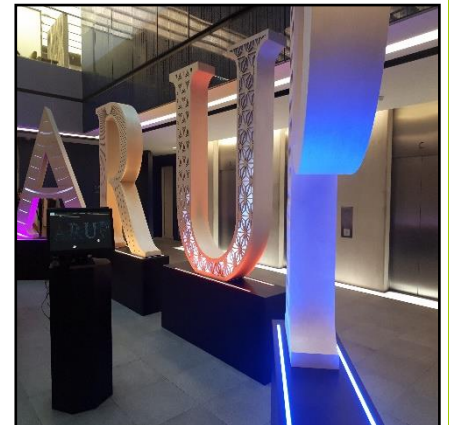
## Ist Annual Air Quality Forum Report

EPS attended the Air Quality Forum, organised by Waterfront Conferences, at Arup's Central London headquarters.

Despite the severe snow affecting the UK capital, the line-up of speakers was excellent and provided an overview of the efforts being made at central and local level in the UK to tackle air pollution.

The event began with a presentation by Andrea Lees, a senior campaigner with Client Earth, a group of environmental lawyers, who gave a potted history of the successful legal challenge it brought against the UK Government that made it mandatory for English, Scottish and Welsh cities to have an air quality plan.

Ms Lees said it was a priority for towns and cities to phase out diesel vehicles as quickly as possible. Read more [here](#)



## NEXT MONTH – In-depth LEZ analysis

We interview Duncan Booker, Chief Resilience Officer at Glasgow City Council. Mr Booker has been closely involved in the detailed plans for Glasgow's LEZ, balancing environmental concerns about air quality with the public health requirements to ensure the public transport network is not disrupted as the retro-fitting of buses goes forward in 2019. If you would like to ask Mr Booker about the LEZ or Glasgow's resilience strategy, please email any questions to me, [john.bynorth@ep-scotland.org.uk](mailto:john.bynorth@ep-scotland.org.uk) before Tuesday April 10. We will also have analysis and updates on the response to the city's latest LEZ plans. The next issue will be out on Friday, April 27.

EPS is the continuation of an eminent line of charities going back to the days of the National Society for Clean Air and more recently Environmental Protection UK. Our objectives include the support and development of the work of Scotland's environmental regulators and scientists based on sound science, objectivity and best practice. We seek to work towards a cleaner, quieter, healthier sustainable Scotland.

## WE HAVE MOVED

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**If you do not wish to receive details of our forthcoming events, please reply to this email with the word STOP in the subject title.**