



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
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Our Ref: 270389
Your Ref: DE

22 October 2019

Damian Eaton
CSS Manager (Legal & Democratic Services)
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Town Hall
Stockport
SK1 3XE

Dear Mr Eaton,

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council Motion – Managing Engine Idling To Promote Cleaner Air

Thank you for your letter of 4 October to the Prime Minister, regarding Local Authority powers to tackle vehicle engine idling. This has been passed to the Department for Transport and I am responding as the relevant policy official.

The Government recognises the damaging impact that idling can have on local air quality, particularly in areas with large numbers of waiting vehicles, such as outside schools or at taxi ranks.

As you note, Local Authorities have existing powers to tackle unnecessary idling. Under the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002, they may issue Fixed Penalty Notices with £20 fines, to drivers who idle their vehicles unnecessarily. Police also have powers to tackle unnecessary idling and the offence carries a maximum fine on conviction of £1000.

The Department produces guidance for Local Authorities on the use of their powers to tackle idling. In this guidance, as in your letter, schools are identified as a sensitive site where enforcement should be concentrated.

We are currently revising the guidance for Local Authorities and plan to reissue it in the coming months. This updated guidance will provide clarity to Local Authorities on the powers they have and the best approaches to enforcement. We will also carry out a consultation, asking for views on the

best ways to tackle idling. I would encourage you to look out for this consultation and respond to it in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', written in a cursive style.

Michael Sedgwick
Team Leader, Vehicle Testing, Operation and the Environment

