



**Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Department for Transport**

**Improving air quality in the UK: tackling nitrogen dioxide
in our towns and cities**

Submission from CIBSE

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The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)

- CIBSE is one of the leading global professional organisations for building performance related knowledge. The Institution and its members are the primary source of professional guidance for the building services sector on the design, installation and maintenance of energy efficient building services systems to deliver healthy, comfortable and effective building performance. Our focus is on adopting a co-ordinated approach at all stages of the life cycle of buildings, including conception, briefing, design, procurement, construction, operation, maintenance and ultimate disposal.

Consultation Response

- We welcome this consultation on air quality and understand that it largely relates to reducing the impact of diesel vehicles. We also note that Annex I of the Draft UK Air Quality Plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide recognises that emissions from commercial (non-industrial) and domestic buildings represents a proportion of overall UK NOx emissions.
- We are keen to minimise any tensions between air quality policy and carbon reduction policies that promote CHP and district heating. Please see [online](#) for further information.
- We would also recommend careful consideration of solid fuel sources such as biomass heating about which there are questions about consistent application of appropriate standards but have the potential for high operational performance. For further information, please see [‘Desk-based review of performance and installation practices of biomass boilers’](#) and [AM15 Biomass Heating](#).
- We are expecting that the serious concerns about pollution levels of outdoor air and its impact on indoor air quality will also be addressed in the near future. We spend a large majority of time indoors for work, learning, leisure and living, and there is potential to greatly improve indoor air quality if Part F of Building Regulations, which focuses on ventilation, is properly enforced.
- CIBSE provides leadership on building services engineering and current expert advice and guidance on air quality aspects is available [online](#).