

**The Honorable Mayor Khan**  
City Hall,  
Kamal Chunchie Way  
London  
E16 1ZE

Via email: [mayor@london.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@london.gov.uk)

18 July 2022

Dear Mayor Khan,

Re: **Air Pollution in London- risks of the Silvertown Tunnel and expansion of the Edmonton Incinerator**

The BMA London regional council (LRC) applauds your commitment to improving air quality in London, and recognition that the poorest Londoners are worst affected:

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/17/poorest-londoners-most-at-risk-from-toxic-air-sadiq-khan-says?CMP=share\\_btn\\_link](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/17/poorest-londoners-most-at-risk-from-toxic-air-sadiq-khan-says?CMP=share_btn_link)

The BMJ has highlighted that air pollution is a public health emergency:

<https://www.bmj.com/content/378/bmj.o1664>

The London Regional Council of the BMA is very concerned about two large infrastructure projects which will imperil the quest for cleaner air and the health of Londoners for decades, the Silvertown Tunnel and the expansion of the Edmonton incinerator.

The Transport and Health Science group has provided evidence that increasing road capacity by building or widening roads does not reduce congestion. It simply generates more traffic. The Silvertown Tunnel will worsen air quality in two of the most polluted boroughs in London, Newham and Greenwich, whose residents already suffer ill health from pollution, with levels consistently exceeding WHO guidelines:

**Co-chief executive officers:** Neeta Major & Rachel Podolak

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## Newham Has 'Most Toxic Air In The UK', Study Finds | Londonist

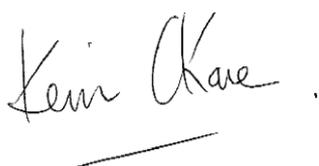
The report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on air pollution, on 21/12/2021, urges England to adopt a moratorium on large-scale waste incinerators, as Wales has done.

The North London Waste Authority is planning to rebuild and expand the Edmonton incinerator, located in one of the most deprived boroughs in the UK, one that suffers more than its fair share of poor air quality, poor health and with the highest covid deaths rates in the UK

Sustainable waste management relies on the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle, in that order. Current recycling rates are stagnating at 30% across North London, when it is possible to achieve recycling rates of up to 70% or more in areas such as Swansea. The decision to spend £1.2 Billion on expansion of the Edmonton incinerator is a false solution, opposed by residents across the seven affected boroughs. The NLWA will potentially end up with a white elephant, a stranded asset, that will further act to encourage the commodification and profitability of waste generation at the expense of recycling initiatives.

The London Regional Council of the BMA urges the GLA, under your direction, to pause and reconsider both of these large infrastructure projects. Please listen to the residents and health experts who oppose these costly, large scale capital projects and work with residents and councils to explore sustainable solutions to traffic pollution and waste management.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin O'Kane". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a short horizontal line.

Dr. Kevin O'Kane  
Chair, London Regional Council