



Suggested responses to Bristol City Council's Traffic Clean Air Zone consultation

Background to the consultation

Bristol City Council has been required by the UK Government to produce a plan to show how it will meet legal limits of air pollution in the shortest time possible. This requirement comes after a number of successful legal challenges against the UK Government by ClientEarth following its failure to meet legal limits by the original deadline of 2010. The Council's air quality plan must meet legal tests set out by the High Court and more information on this can be found [here](#).

The Council is currently consulting on draft proposals until **Monday 12 August**. Limited information has been provided by the Council on the [Traffic Clean Air Zone consultation website](#). Responses can only be made through the online survey or you can also request paper and other alternative versions emailing transport.projects@bristol.gov.uk or by calling 0117 352 1397.

Unfortunately, the Council's draft proposals do not go far enough and may not meet legal limits of air pollution until at least 2028 - 18 years after their original deadline. It has watered down proposals because it thinks they would have a disproportionate impact on people on low incomes but it's not a case of having to choose between one or the other. Instead, the Council should be proposing more ambitious plans and making sure that, alongside the UK Government, they provide help and support to people on low incomes to help them move to cleaner forms of transport.

Your views do matter and we want as many of you to respond to as many of the questions as possible in order to encourage the Council to be more ambitious for the sake of people's health. We know that responding to consultations can be difficult for some so we have produced this short guide to help you ask the Council to produce better plans.

Remember, the deadline to make your voice heard about Bristol's clean air plans is **Monday 12 August**.

How to use this guide

We have provided suggested responses to five questions in [Bristol City Council's Traffic Clean Air Zone consultation](#) which we think are key to sending a message to Bristol City Council that

the options under consideration do not go far or fast enough. This should take you between 5-10 minutes or a bit longer if you respond to all the questions.

Please respond to all questions, if you can, in the way that best reflects your views. The following are suggested responses for questions **four, five, six, seven and ten**, which you are welcome to use or adapt to reflect your own views. We have also provided advice for selecting your response to **question eight**.

Question 4

We suggest selecting '**Neither agree nor disagree**' for the following if you are not opposed to the concepts of Clean Air Zones or vehicle bans but would like to see the actual proposals put forward by the Council improved:

- **Question 4, Option 1:** Clean Air Zone (private cars not charged) is a good way to improve air quality in Bristol
- **Question 4, Option 2:** Diesel car ban is a good way to improve air quality in Bristol

Question 5

You can use or adapt the following suggested text into the text boxes for **both Option 1 and Option 2**:

I do not think that the Council has provided sufficient information for me to give a fully informed opinion on any of the proposals brought forward. I do not want to have to wait another ten years for the city to be rid of illegal levels of pollution. I want the Council to instead properly assess all technologically feasible measures and develop proposals that have the highest likelihood of meeting legal limits of air pollution in the shortest time possible, as well as reducing people's exposure as quickly as possible. These proposals should urgently address all sources of pollution, including private cars, and could include a bigger and stronger Clean Air Zone as part of a package of measures. They should also include help and support for people on low incomes and small businesses to move on to cleaner forms of transport.

Question 6

You can use or adapt the following suggested text into the text boxes for **Locations 1, 2 and 3**:

The Council should be putting forward proposals that are already designed to ensure that legal limits are met in the shortest time possible at all locations across Bristol. This should mean that proposed boundaries surround the right area, being big enough to tackle all locations suffering from illegal pollution levels and avoid the risk of problems being caused in other areas by the displacement of polluting vehicles.

Question 7

You can use or adapt the following suggested text into the text boxes for **Locations 1, 2 and 3**:

The Council should be putting forward proposals that are already designed to ensure that legal limits are met in the shortest time possible at all locations across Bristol. This should mean that proposed boundaries surround the right area, being big enough to tackle all locations suffering from illegal pollution levels and avoid the risk of problems being caused in other areas by the displacement of polluting vehicles.

Question 8

Please respond to this question in the way that best reflects your own views. Our position is that exemptions should be kept to a minimum, if needed at all, and the focus should instead be on providing help and support for those who most need it, such as people on low incomes and small businesses, move on to cleaner forms of transport.

Question 10

You can use or adapt the following suggested text into the text box:

I am disappointed by the Council's proposals and by the lack of information provided in support of these. I do not believe that they will be enough to meet legal limits of air pollution in the shortest time possible and are therefore not prioritising people's health. I disagree that it is a choice between taking action on toxic air and protecting those on low incomes, especially as studies have shown that they, alongside people with ethnic minorities, are disproportionately affected by higher levels of air pollution while at the same time contributing the least to the problem. I would like to see the Council developing more ambitious proposals that address all the key sources of pollution, including private cars. This could also include a bigger and better Clean Air Zone alongside a package of measures so that we can have fewer and cleaner vehicles on our roads. I would also like to see the Council working with the UK Government to ensure there is help and support for people on low incomes and small businesses move on to cleaner forms of transport.

Finally, do encourage your family, friends and colleagues to [respond to the consultation](#) by sharing this guide with them.

The deadline to make your voice heard is **Monday 12 August**.



The Clean Air Parents' Network is supported by the British Lung Foundation and ClientEarth. We are calling on all levels of government to take action to tackle illegal and harmful levels of air pollution to protect the health of people across the UK www.cleanairparents.org.uk