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Environmental Audit Committee  
House of Commons  
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Dear Mary

### **Environment Committee's inquiry into Planetary Healthcare**

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence at the committee's inquiry on Planetary Healthcare on 12 February 2019. I promised to write to the committee with further information of low and ultra-low emission vehicles used by the NHS.

There are 3,543 double crewed ambulances (DCAs) in operation in England. Based on their age we can estimate that 35% of them are Euro 6 diesel engines. Euro 6 is cleanest category of diesels and therefore would be part of the lower emissions 90% target and they would be allowed to drive free of charge in the London ultra-low emissions zone.

There are 1,458 Rapid Response Vehicles in operation in England – at least five of these are BMW i3s, ultra-low emission range extended vehicles which are on the government's Go Ultra Low list. Therefore at least 0.3% of RRVs are ultra-low emission. Nationally, according to the Department for Transport, the proportion of vehicle kilometres for electric cars is 0.45% and light goods vehicles is 0.23%.

A local assessment of the demands, capacity and distance travelled by RRVs will identify the proportion of the fleet that can be moved over to be Ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) – in many cases there are vehicles available in the market that are cost effective over their lease to replace solely petrol and diesel engines vehicles with ULEV.

In addition, the NHS has restated its commitment to the carbon targets of the UK government's Climate Change Act (2008), reducing carbon emissions (on a 1990 baseline), by 34% by 2020 and 51% by 2025 and also state a commitment to improving air quality by:

- cutting air pollutant emissions from business mileage and fleet by 20% by 2023/24.

- Ensuring that at least 90% of the NHS fleet uses low-emissions engines (including 25% ultra-low emissions) by 2028/29.
- Phasing out primary heating from coal (by 2023/24) and oil (by 2028/29) in NHS sites.

We are encouraging local NHS trusts to utilise the Department for Transport funded green fleet reviews that help identify which vehicles can move to ULEV. The Government's Road to Zero strategy also pledges significant funding across the UK for rapid growth in electric vehicle infrastructure, which we are exploring how the NHS can leverage this funding to support fleet, staff and patients to uptake ULEVs. We are also running a number of initiatives and exercises to improve uptake of low emission vehicles which includes:

- a vehicle for the future project run by NHS Improvement is being set up find further efficiencies (engine, weight and equipment) to improve fuel consumption and offers an opportunity to explore ultra-low emission innovation;
- a £36.3m funding pot for 256 new ambulances to create new capacity and replace some of the old DCAs in the fleet;
- engaging with the authors of major frameworks used by the NHS for vehicle purchase, lease and services to ensure they are enabled for ULEVs and charging infrastructure.

Our next step is to create a relevant, up to date and repeatable data capture process for fleet across all providers to give us definitive answers and measure changes over time. We are also exploring through the NHS Electronic Staff Record to see if we can assess the ULEV make up of staff vehicles used for NHS business miles (this is called grey fleet).

Yours sincerely



Sonia Roschnik  
Director

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