05 January 2018

Dear Lord Trefgarne,

I am writing on behalf of the British Heart Foundation (BHF) to lend our support to the proposed introduction of legislation to tackle emissions from medium combustion plants (MCPs) and generators, which are a major source of air pollution.

Exposure to air pollution causes significant and avoidable harm to health, particularly among the most vulnerable in society. Research funded by the BHF has shown that both long-term and short-term exposure to air pollution can make existing heart conditions worse, and can increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. In fact, globally, 80% of deaths related to outdoor air pollution are due to heart disease or stroke. Given that there are around 7 million people currently living with cardiovascular disease in the UK, many of whom will be regularly exposed to harmful levels of pollution, it is vital that bold measures are introduced to improve the UK’s air quality.

The implementation of the MCP Directive and proposed regulation of generators are important steps towards this. The regulations are expected to provide 9% of the reduction for particulate matter and 22% of the nitrogen oxides emissions reduction required to meet the UK’s 2030 air quality targets. Research has shown that there is a particularly strong link between particulate matter and poor cardiovascular health. Reducing emissions from these sources is particularly important given that many generators and MCPs are located at hospitals, exposing the most vulnerable individuals to harmful levels of pollution. We would welcome the introduction of this legislation in order to improve the UK’s air quality and protect the nation’s heart health.

If you would like any further information about the link between air pollution and cardiovascular disease, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

John Maingay

Director of Policy & Public Affairs

British Heart Foundation