

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

5 May 2015

Trams can free Cities from Choking to Death

***TramForward* applauds the UK Supreme Court in quashing the Government's ineffective plans to cut illegal levels of air pollution in Britain and ordered it to deliver new ones by the end of the year.**

The Supreme Court Justices were unanimous in their decision, handed down last week, saying: "The new Government, whatever its political complexion, should be left in no doubt as to the need for immediate action to address this issue."

TramForward congratulates ClientEarth in their struggle for the right of British people to breathe clean air.

The ruling can save thousands of lives a year by forcing the Government to urgently clean up pollution from diesel vehicles, by implementing as France has done light rail and tramway systems which are emission free and can use energy from non polluting means of power generation.

ClientEarth Lawyer Alan Andrews said: "Air pollution kills tens of thousands of people in this country every year. We brought our case because we have a right to breathe clean air and today the Supreme Court has upheld that right."

Air pollution health impacts

Mr James Harkins, Secretary of the All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group and veteran Anti- Pollution campaigner, stated "Approximately 29,000 deaths occur in the UK each year as a result of air pollution. Air pollution has been linked to coronary artery disease, heart attacks and strokes, with studies showing that traffic-related air pollution affects lung function in children. Diesel vehicles emit more of the dangerous pollutants than petrol vehicles. Sixteen cities and regions including London, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Glasgow have illegal levels of air pollution long after they were obliged to comply with agreed limits".

The Way Forward

Andrew Braddock, Chairman of the Light Rail Transit Association, said "The next Government, regardless of the political party or parties which take power, is now legally bound to take urgent action on this pollution crisis. The UK needs to take steps to introduce non-polluting efficient public transport. In continental Europe and across the World light rail and tram systems have improved the atmosphere and environment in cities. The next Government must start work on a comprehensive plan to meet pollution limits as soon as possible".

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. *TramForward* is the campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association.
2. The Light Rail Transit Association is the world's leading organisation campaigning for better public transport through light rail, tramway and metro systems in our towns and cities for 75 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail.
3. The LRTA acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their localities.
4. Membership of the LRTA costs under 14p a day. To join, visit www.lrta.org or write to the Membership Secretary, LRTA, 38 Wolseley Road, Sale, Greater Manchester, M33 7AU. Members of the LRTA receive the monthly magazine *Tramways & Urban Transit* - written and read by experts in the field - and gain other benefits including discounts on videos and books, tours of transport systems and cut-price admission to selected transport sites.
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