



Fleet Hero Conference 2016

London Transport Museum

24th November 2016

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Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Department
for Transport

Tackling air quality and transport emissions

Catriona Henderson – Joint Air Quality Unit

The problem: Nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter have significant health impacts

Nitrogen Dioxide

Brown gas from combustion



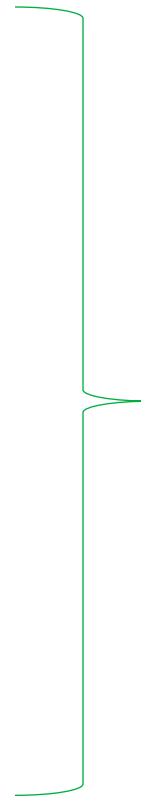
Causes irritation of eyes and lungs, may affect lung function

Particulate Matter

Ultra fine dust floating in the air



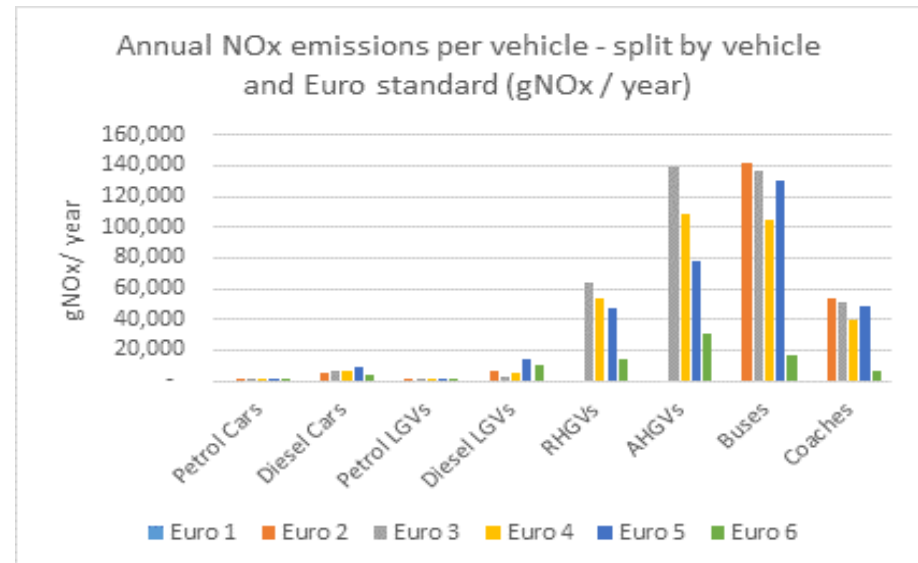
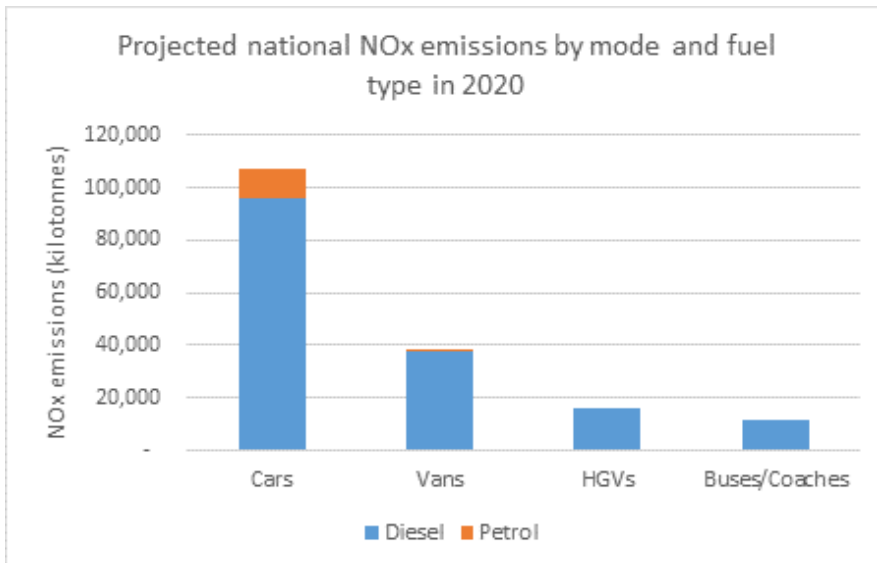
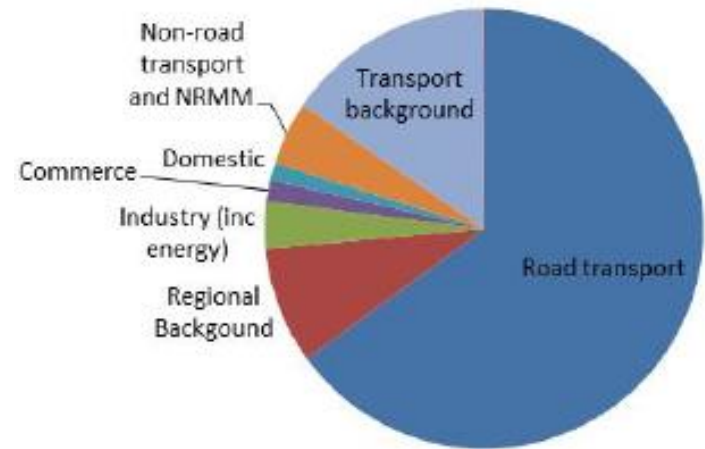
Linked to heart attacks and strokes



Around **50,000** premature deaths a year and **£30bn** a year cost to society

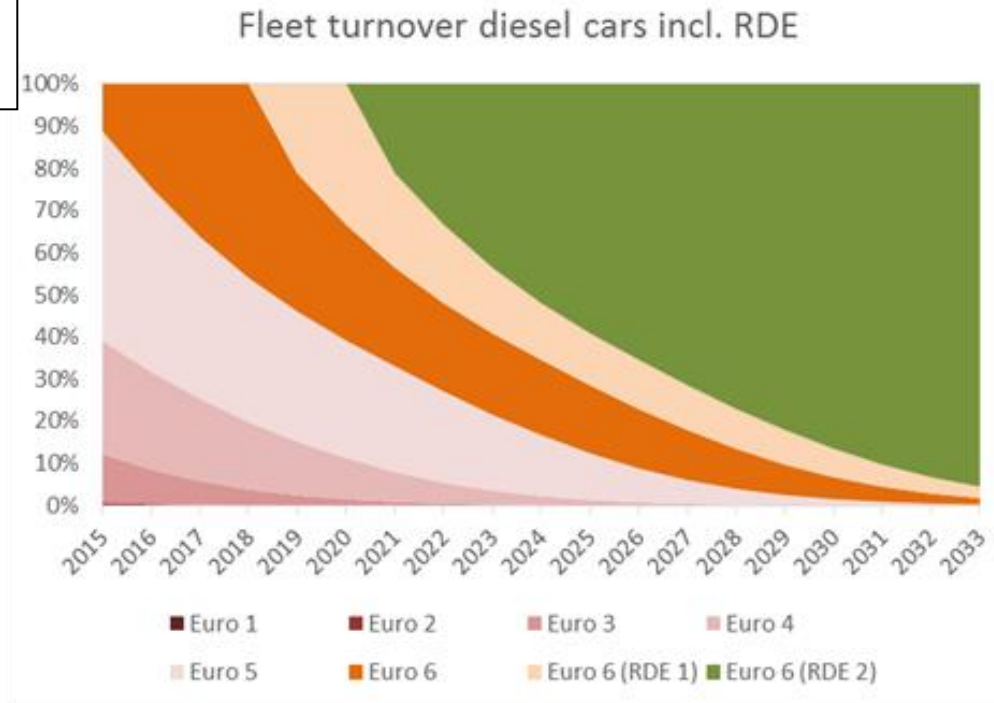
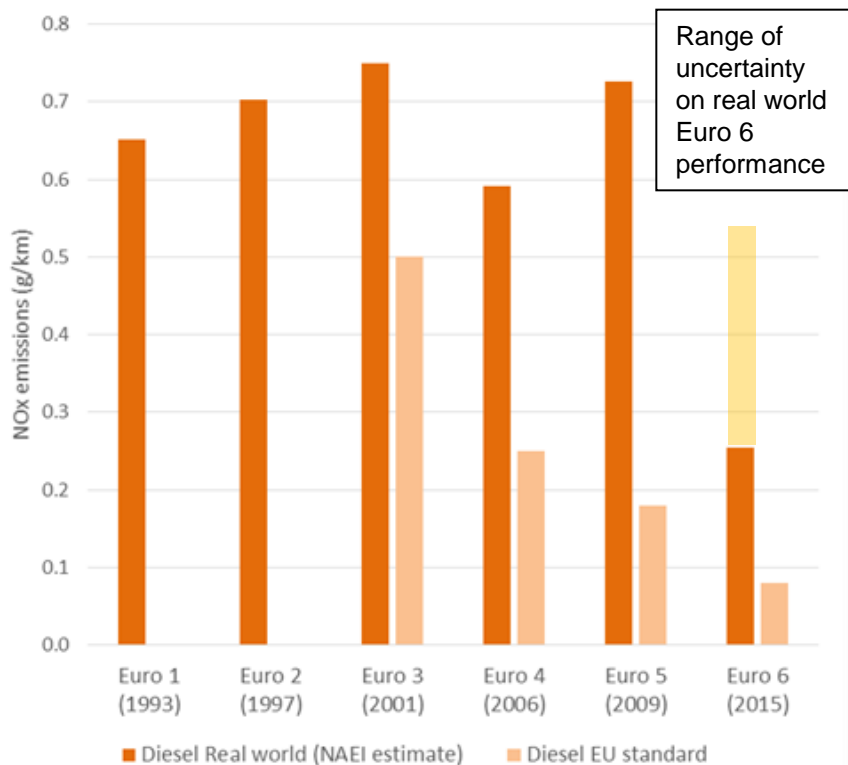
Transport is a significant cause of air pollution

80% of NOx emissions at the roadside come from transport sources.



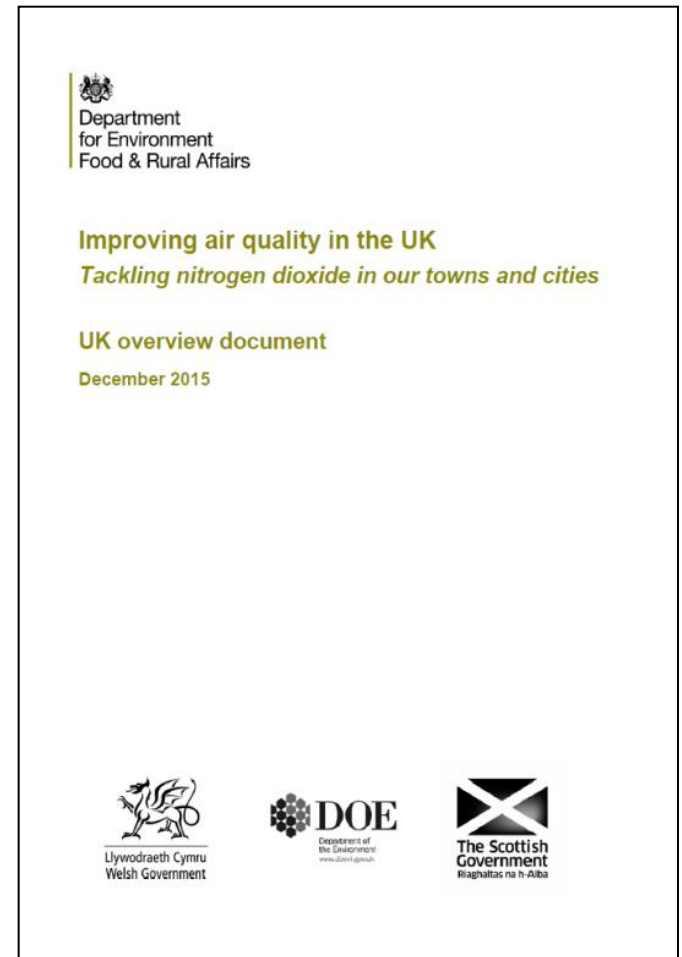
The problem is linked to the difference between vehicle performance in lab tests and in the real world.

Diesel car NOx emissions - NAEI estimates of real world v limit



We are in breach of NO₂ limits

- The UK currently meets 19 of its 20 legal obligations.
- However, many roads in the UK exceed air quality limits for NO₂
- Limits ultimately come from Europe, but ministers have been clear that Brexit is not about backing away from our environmental commitments.
- Government's plans set out in the National Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide, published December 2015.



Clean Air Zones are designed to support clean city growth.

Minimum requirements:

- In response to a clearly defined air quality problem.
- Signposted
- Raise awareness
- Part of local plans
- Local authority taking the lead
- Make it easier to use ultra low emission vehicles
- Support healthy active travel

Any place can voluntarily adopt a Clean Air Zone.



Where the challenge is greatest, access restrictions can play a part.

- Access restrictions based on emissions standards:
 - Euro 6 and higher for all diesel vehicles
 - Euro 4 and higher for petrol cars
- Vehicles to be covered vary by city. Charges for cars are not being mandated anywhere in current plans.
- A cordon charge – like London’s congestion charge
- Prices to be set following

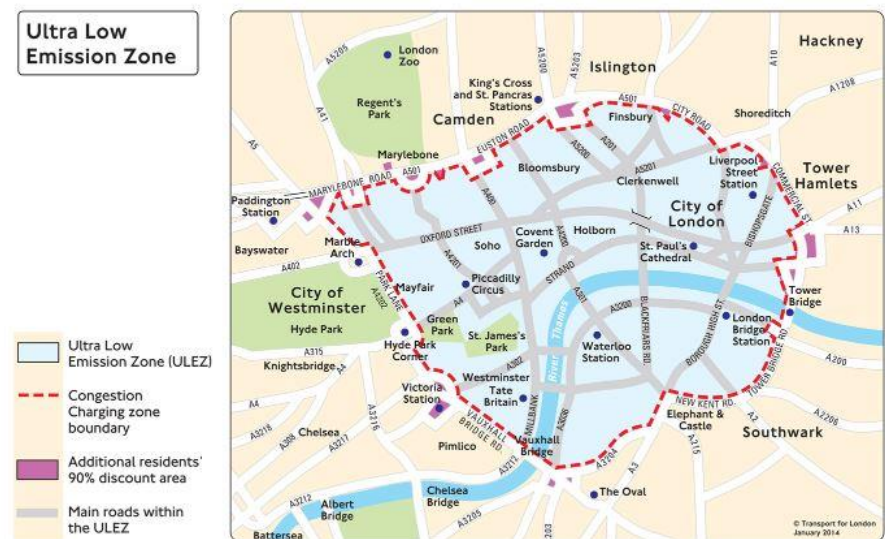
The Government is mandating 5 cities to implement CAZs by 2020



Birmingham	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Derby	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Leeds	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Nottingham	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Southampton	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗

The new Mayor has proposed measures to ensure London complies by 2025.

- Currently consulting on:
 - Plans for a 'T' charge for most polluting vehicles, covering congestion charge zone
 - Expanding proposed Ultra Low Emission Zone (covering all vehicles, including cars) to the North and South Circular and introducing it earlier – potentially 2019
 - Expanded Low Emission Zone for HGVs to GLA boundary



Recent events show we need to go further

- Plan recently subject to a successful judicial review: updated plan by Summer 2017
- Plan will reflect new evidence following the Volkswagen scandal – emissions from cars and vans worse than we had thought
- Clean Air Zones still likely to be part of the solution, but will be exploring other options.
- Autumn Statement shows recent progress.
- And a variety of other steps – air quality grant for local authorities, tackling other sources of NO₂ etc.



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Thank you!

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