

Councillor Whitehead
Correspondence by email

March 1st 2021

Dear Councillor Whitehead

Bath Clean Air Zone

Thank you for your letter dated 19 February.

I note your suggestion that it was our intention to purposefully delay responding to your letter dated 21 November. I have already apologised for the delayed response, which was due to a simple administrative error. As a neighbouring authority we are always keen to help where we can, and my team were surprised that we hadn't heard further from you following Cllr Warren's email dated 13 July 2020 to Cllr Wayman (and copied to officers). It is important to us that we continue to work together to resolve your concerns.

With this in mind, we have again written to both JAQU and the Minister in support of your capital funding request for additional monitoring equipment. However please note that JAQU guidance clearly states "JAQU does not require local authorities to undertake additional monitoring (or evaluation) of their interventions, above monitoring activity that is already occurring or is planned". In addition, whilst we appreciate your scepticism it would be helpful if you could perhaps provide some evidence to support your request.

Irrespective of the above, as I stated in my last letter we remain committed to working with your officers to monitor for any impact. If you would be willing to share the data you have from the air quality and traffic monitoring infrastructure you already have in place, then I reiterate that I am prepared to dedicate officer time towards developing a joint approach to monitoring that addresses any concerns you may have about our Clean Air Plan.

Finally, we appreciate your equally helpful approach towards the Cleveland Bridge works. As neighbouring highway authorities it is incumbent on us both to work together for the benefit of all road users and those living and working on these roads, reducing the impact road traffic has on our towns and cities and the wider environment by moving to greener fleets and encouraging other modes of transport and travel.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dine Romero', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cllr Dine Romero
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council