



**Friends of  
the Earth**

July 2017

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### **Unmasked: the true story of the air you're breathing**

Thank you so much for donating for our Clean Air Kits to measure air pollution where you are. In doing so, you've played a crucial part in Friends of the Earth's groundbreaking citizen science project to monitor pollution across the country. Using the simple air monitoring tubes, thousands of people like you have tested the levels of toxic Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in places that matter to them – and the initial results are literally breathtaking.

We've analysed the data that has come back so far from the lab, and compiled the findings in the enclosed report, *Unmasked: the true story of the air you're breathing*.

Together, we've found:

- More than 1 in 6 monitoring tubes recording NO<sub>2</sub> pollution concentrations above the level at which the average annual legal limit is set.
- NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations above this level in 133 local authorities and 181 Westminster Parliamentary constituencies, representing every region of England, as well as Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland – plus the Isle of Man and Jersey.
- 13 new hotspots, where we recorded 'high' readings in areas not currently identified as having a pollution problem by the local authority or national government.

The results have helped to paint a shocking picture. It suggests that the problem with air pollution is much more widespread than the government acknowledged in May in its desperately weak draft Air Quality Plan – a plan which is supposed to tackle illegal levels of air pollution.

Our Clean Air Kit findings show that the government must get tougher. At the very least, we need Clean Air Zones in polluted towns and cities, and a plan to phase out diesel from vehicles by 2025 and help people access clean alternatives.

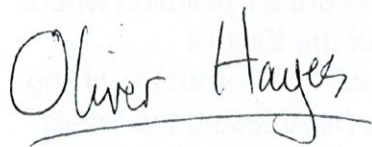
We've sent the report to every MP. We've delivered a petition to PM Theresa May. And, armed with the data you helped us gather, we're even better placed to analyse how the government's new plans stack up. Thank you.

Together, we've exposed the true story of the air we're all breathing. We won't give up the fight for clean air everywhere until we've won. Thanks again for being part of this campaign to protect people's health and to make our streets pleasant, safe places to be. If you would like to do more to tackle air pollution with people in your area, why not meet up with your local Friends of the Earth group? You can check for your nearest one at [www.foe.co.uk/actlocal](http://www.foe.co.uk/actlocal)

People are continuing to use Clean Air Kits to measure pollution. You can find the latest results from on our interactive map at [www.foe.co.uk/clean-air/clean-air-campaign-air-monitoring-kit-results](http://www.foe.co.uk/clean-air/clean-air-campaign-air-monitoring-kit-results).

And when you've read this report, why not take it to a library or a doctor's surgery and hopefully inspire the next citizen scientist?

Best wishes, and thank you again,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oliver Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Oliver Hayes**

Clean Air Campaigner

PS – We'd love to keep you updated on our campaigns, fundraising, and how you can get involved but you haven't chosen to receive emails from us. If you'd like to change that you can sign up at [www.foe.co.uk/go/enews](http://www.foe.co.uk/go/enews)