



MARYLEBONEFORUM

The Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP
Minister of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
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London
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Dear Minister

Cleaner trains at Marylebone Station

I write as Chair of the Marylebone neighbourhood Forum, to raise our concerns about polluting diesel trains at Marylebone Station, and the opportunity to introduce cleaner hybrid trains, when the new Marylebone to Birmingham rail franchise is awarded, later this year.

The Marylebone Forum was established in 2013 and is designated under the Localism Act 2011. We are the largest neighbourhood forum in Westminster with equal representation between residents and non-residents' organisations including amenity societies, three Business Improvements Districts and two landed estates. See www.maryleboneforum.org.

Improving air quality is one of our 3 core priorities. In line with Westminster Council's policies, our draft Neighbourhood Plan will focus on policies to improve air quality in our area.

Marylebone Station sits within the Marylebone Forum area. It is the last entirely diesel-powered station in London and sits within a densely populated area of homes, schools, offices, shops and hotels.

Repeated NO₂ surveys by the St Marylebone Society have documented how train emissions pollute the area around the station, harming the health of all. See [no2_survey_report.pdf \(stmarylebonesociety.org\)](#)

The Marylebone line will not be electrified in the near future, but diesel/battery hybrid technology offers a much faster route to reduce harmful NO₂ and Particulate Matter pollution.

We welcome the recent testing of Chiltern's HybridFLEX trains, and their initial findings of 75% reduction in engine noise, 70% reduction in NOx emissions, and 90% reduction in Particulate Matter emissions.

We strongly urge you to use the new National Rail Contract to mandate the switch from polluting diesel to clean hybrid power trains at the earliest opportunity.

I trust the Forum's views will be taken into account.

Yours faithfully

Yael Saunders
Chair, Marylebone Forum
chair@maryleboneforum.org

CC: Nickie Aiken MP (Cities of London & Westminster)
Cllr Rachael Robathan, Leader, Westminster City Council
Cllr Barbara Arzymanow (Bryanston & Dorset Squares ward, Westminster City Council)