[**Your** **name**]
[**Street address**]
[**Suburb] [Postcode**]

[**Date**]

**[MP’s Name]**
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr./Mrs./Miss./Ms.[*MP’s Surname*],

I am writing as one of your constituents to ask you to request that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) does more to protect staff who work outdoors from the dangers of ambient air pollution. Even with new developments such as Low Emission Zones in our cities, air pollution is still too high to be safe.

Air pollution, linked to as many as 36,000 early deaths a year in the UK, is now recognised as the biggest environmental risk to public health. It is a legacy of years of inaction by regulators and public bodies which choose to ignore the mounting evidence of the impact of air pollution on our health and lives.

I am deeply concerned that we are ignoring a present health risk to the thousands of people around the country who work outside for a living.

As we are protected by law from the harm of specific toxic substances such as asbestos, we must also be safeguarded from the dangers of air pollution. This protection should be enshrined in law as a fundamental human right.

According to a previous DWP Minister, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), as the independent regulator for work-related health and safety in Great Britain, does not regulate environmental exposures and is not currently undertaking any research to better understand the effect of polluted air on the health of outdoor workers. It is no surprise then that without this leadership from our regulator, most businesses are unaware of the risks it presents to outdoor workers.

I share the British Safety Council’s concerns and support their Time to Breathe campaign in requesting that:

* The HSE researches the links between long-term occupational exposure to ambient air pollution and its impact on the health of outdoor workers and drivers. As a matter of urgency, it should immediately recognise exposure to ambient air pollution as an occupational health issue
* Defra and the Devolved Administrations should invest to improve pollution monitoring across the UK. Reducing exposure requires detailed pollution measurements. All UK regions have the right to the same accuracy in emissions data as London
* The UK should recognise and adopt World Health Organisation (WHO) exposure guidelines for nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) and ozone. Currently the UK adopts the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive for threshold limit values on ambient air which are higher than those set by WHO.

As my representative in Parliament, I would be grateful if you could write to both Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with these requests. I would be grateful for a copy of your letter to the Ministers and any replies.

Yours sincerely,

**[Your name]**