

## **Press release: Ozone air pollution alert**

A high pressure system persisting over the UK has brought warm and still conditions, resulting in increased ground level ozone.

A number of sites in the UK have exceeded the EU ozone public information threshold of 180µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The latest information on these alerts will be issued on the [UK Air website](#).

Some people are more sensitive to ozone than others and may begin to notice an effect on their breathing. People with asthma are not necessarily more sensitive but, if affected, can use their 'reliever' inhaler to alleviate symptoms.

If affected, people are urged to take sensible precautions. In particular, avoiding exercise outdoors in the afternoon can reduce individual exposure to ozone.

If the legal threshold for ozone is again breached, further alerts will be issued on our [UK Air website](#).

Forecasts, latest measurements and health advice are available on UK Air and via Defra's freephone helpline (0800 556677). Updates on current and forecast levels of air pollution can also be found on Twitter [@DefraUKAir](#).

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## **Public health advice following the Grenfell Tower fire**

### **Latest update**

PHE continues to publish [weekly reports](#) about the air quality in the area surrounding Grenfell Tower.

### **Previous updates**

#### **15 October 2018**

PHE's response to reports of toxins in the soil around Grenfell Tower.

PHE Regional Director for London, Dr Yvonne Doyle said:

Since the Grenfell Tower tragedy we have been working very closely with local health partners and the community to ensure they have access to the best available public health evidence and advice. PHE has asked Professor Stec for the data and evidence so that it can be carefully reviewed and appropriate action taken if necessary.

Local authorities are responsible for assessing and legally determining contaminated land within their communities, which are generally considered a very low risk to health because people would need to be exposed to the soil over long periods of time, and we have been providing advice on contamination to Kensington and Chelsea council.

#### **15 September 2017**

Public Health England has been assessing air quality in the area surrounding Grenfell Tower since the start of the fire on 14 June. The independent air quality monitoring commissioned by PHE has shown the risk to people's health

from air pollution around the Grenfell Tower site to be consistently low. No asbestos has been detected, levels of particulate matter remain low, and monitoring results for dioxins, furans, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are broadly equivalent to background levels for London.

See the [latest air quality data](#) taken from monitoring locations around the site which we publish on a weekly basis and read the [public health advice](#).

## **14 July**

The risk to people's health from air pollution around the Grenfell Tower site continues to be low and no asbestos has been detected.

Following discussions with local residents, PHE has published a report containing the [air quality data](#) from the monitoring locations around the site. The report contains data tables, graphs and photographs of where the equipment is based, alongside an explanation of the data.

## **13 July 2017**

Public Health England has published additional health advice relating to [cyanide](#).

## **7 July 2017**

On Thursday 6 July, regional director for PHE London, Dr Yvonne Doyle and her team attended a community question and answer session near the Grenfell Tower site.

PHE attended to update residents on the continuing air monitoring taking place and to address any concerns about the wider risk to people's physical health.

## **30 June 2017**

Public Health England (PHE) has been providing [specialist advice on health following the Grenfell Tower fire](#). This includes health advice on air quality, smoke exposure, asbestos, and the clean-up process.

Dr Deborah Turbitt, health protection director for PHE in London, said:

We have been assessing air quality over the past week in relation to the Grenfell Tower fire and this shows no detectable deterioration in air quality. Our advice is that the wider risk to people's physical health as a result of the fire, beyond those directly affected, is low.

People who were close to the scene and exposed to smoke from the fire may have experienced irritation to their air passages, skin and eyes, and respiratory symptoms including coughing and wheezing, breathlessness, phlegm production and chest pain. People who have

ongoing concerns about their symptoms should call NHS 111 for medical advice.

We know that bound asbestos, contained in building materials such as plaster or fibre board, was present in Grenfell Tower in ceilings and header panels inside airing cupboards. It is possible that very small amounts of asbestos fibres will have been dispersed within the smoke plume but would have formed only a small fraction of the smoke and particles released in the fire; all smoke is toxic and any asbestos would present a minimal additional risk to health.

Asbestos related diseases are typically associated with a long term workplace exposure to high levels of airborne asbestos fibres.

Safety officers working with teams currently on the site have tested the air within Grenfell Tower for dust and asbestos and have not detected any levels of concern. When work commences clearing the site there will be a system of engineering work that will prevent any asbestos being released from the site and a programme of regular environmental air monitoring conducted to ensure that both contractors and local residents are not put at any risk.

Three new air quality monitors have been installed in the immediate area of Grenfell Tower on Saturday (24 June 2017) by an independent environment company. Initial readings show low levels of pollution but PHE will continue to closely monitor all relevant readings to ensure the best advice is given.

Richard Mills, Assistant Commissioner for the London Fire Brigade, said:

Lingering smells of smoke in buildings and homes near Grenfell Tower are to be expected. This will clear over time and can be helped by opening windows and washing or cleaning of items such as curtains and soft furnishings.

## **Public health advice**

### **Cyanide**

Chemicals produced when the Grenfell Tower fire was burning will not be present now. Smoke from any fire is toxic and chemicals that can be present in smoke include carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen chloride and hydrogen bromide, as well as others.

The amounts of toxic substances will vary with the specific materials involved in a fire, its temperature and the amount of oxygen. Smoke inhalation may lead to toxins being absorbed into the body, including carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide.

## **Short-term health effects**

People who were close to the scene and exposed to smoke from the fire may have experienced irritation to their air passages, skin and eyes, and respiratory symptoms including coughing and wheezing, breathlessness, phlegm production and chest pain. People who continue to experience symptoms should call NHS 111 for medical advice or consult their GP.

## **Long-term health effects**

People who were not directly impacted by the fire or suffered significant smoke inhalation and are generally fit and well are unlikely to experience long-term health problems from temporary indirect exposure to smoke from a fire.

PHE is continuing to commission monitoring for pollutants that have both short and long-term effects, including cancer, to be sure that we understand if there is any risk to public health as a result of the fire and we will keep local people updated with all results.

## **Asbestos**

Asbestos is a term for a group of naturally occurring minerals made of microscopic fibres. Before its dangers to health were known, asbestos was often used in buildings for insulation, flooring and roofing and sprayed on ceilings and walls. It is now banned in the UK. Buildings constructed before the year 2000 may still have asbestos in them.

We know that bound asbestos, contained in building materials such as plaster or fibre board (also known as 'asbestos containing material'), was present in Grenfell Tower in textured ceilings and header panels inside airing cupboards.

Asbestos may be destroyed at very high temperatures such as those that would have happened during the fire.

Safety officers working with teams on the site have tested the air within Grenfell Tower for dust and asbestos and have not detected any levels of concern. Regular environmental air monitoring is being conducted to ensure that both contractors and local residents are not put at any risk.

It is possible that very small amounts of asbestos fibres will have been dispersed within the smoke plume from the fire but would have formed only a small fraction of the smoke and particles released in the fire.

There is little evidence to suggest that asbestos was deposited in the vicinity of Grenfell Tower and any asbestos is likely to have remained within the building structure or inner cordon. Even if small amounts of asbestos containing materials were deposited off site, as the majority of asbestos fibres are held tightly within asbestos containing material, they are not released into the air and this minimises the health risk.

To have any long term health effects of asbestos, a direct exposure by inhaling asbestos fibres would have needed to have taken place over a long period of time. There is evidence to show that breathing in large quantities of asbestos over a long period of time (such as in an occupational setting) mainly affects the lungs and in some cases, it can cause a cancer of the lining of the lung called mesothelioma; it can also cause lung cancer.

Work on the remediation of the Grenfell Tower site will take into account the protection of contractors carrying out the work and of the people in the vicinity. Appropriate mitigation measures such as screens will be installed and monitoring will be undertaken at the site perimeter during the remediation process to ensure there are no off-site impacts from asbestos or harmful materials.

## **Water quality**

Drinking water quality has not been impacted by the fire and tap water is safe to use as normal. Drinking water for the area around Grenfell Tower is supplied by Thames Water and the source of this water supply is not local to Kensington. Water run-off from the Grenfell Tower site would have entered the drainage and sewage system and would be processed as normal, so would not present a risk to physical health.

## **Air purifiers**

Air purifiers, which are generally used to reduce allergens from pets from the air, are not recommended for use in this situation because larger particles produced during the fire will have already settled and not be present in the air.

Larger dust particles settle quickly onto surfaces and are best removed by dusting with a damp cloth.

## **Locally grown fruit and vegetables**

People with gardens in the local area should continue to use their fruit and vegetables as normal ensuring that they are washed and peeled before cooking or eating.

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## **[News story: Crime news: change to how you receive correspondence](#)**

All criminal legal aid correspondence to be sent by email starting on 23 June 2017.

Providers are to receive all criminal legal aid correspondence by email from Friday 23 June.

This follows the change introduced on 30 August 2016 to allow legal aid providers to receive representation orders or refusal notices by email.

### **What correspondence is affected?**

Where appropriate you will be emailed the following documents as attachments in addition to representation orders or refusal notices:

- contribution notice
- contribution order
- income evidence requests
- capital evidence requests
- failed means assessment information

Copies of all correspondence will also continue to be sent via post to the client, unless indicated otherwise as with the current process.

### **Where will the email go?**

Correspondence will be sent automatically to the email address associated with your eForms user account.

Additional copies can also be sent to any appropriate administration email address in the 'firm administrator' field of the CRM form.

### **Further information**

[Representation orders to be emailed](#) – August 2016 news story with details of original change

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## **[Press release: Best of British exports: Downton Abbey world tour showcases TV success](#)**

- International Trade Minister hails iconic British export success
- Downton Abbey: The Exhibition tour kicks off in Singapore in partnership with GREAT
- UK is a world leader in the sales of TV content, with Downton Abbey watched in 250 territories worldwide

International exports of UK TV programmes have grown steadily in recent years and the latest figures show that sales to overseas markets have risen to £1.3

billion in 2016, a 10% increase on the previous year.

With UK TV exports in global demand Downton Abbey is one of the most highly rated British period dramas in history. From Singapore to South Korea, the hit-show is viewed in 250 territories.

In 2015, drama productions were a key driver of British exporting success and sold to the greatest number of territories worldwide.

International Trade Minister, Mark Garnier said:

The UK has produced some of the most successful TV content which is enjoyed globally by millions of people. Our TV exports continue to go from strength to strength and Downton Abbey is leading the charge, with fans now watching the lives of Lady Mary and the Earl of Grantham in 250 territories.

Across the world, viewers are tuning into much-loved British TV shows and this exhibition will showcase the best of British and take advantage of the global appeal for our period dramas.

TV export revenues are also set to increase next year – in both established markets such as the USA and France and newer markets in regions such as Asia, Latin America and Russia, according to the annual 'UK Television Exports Survey' from the Producers Alliance for Cinema and TV.

Thanks to a partnership between the Government's GREAT Britain campaign (GREAT), Carnival Productions, NBCUniversal International and Carnival Productions, Downton Abbey features prominently in GREAT's overseas promotion of the UK. Downton Abbey is used not only to highlight British talent in front and behind the camera, but also to attract overseas visitors, who visit set locations and boost local economies in seeking out the 'Downton experience'.

Michael Edelstein, President of NBCUniversal International Studios said:

We are thrilled that Downton Abbey can live on in a way that few TV series could ever dream of, and in this unique way, the exhibition continues that extraordinary legacy. It is the first-ever immersive experience that invites visitors to step into the authentic world of the award winning and global TV phenomenon.

We are very excited and privileged to unveil this experience in Singapore before touring the exhibition to major cities around the world over the coming years.



The multi-year exhibition tour kicked off in Singapore this week and will travel the world. The traveling exhibition will showcase costumes and locations as well as never-before-seen footage.

- The Department for International Trade works in partnership with industry to ensure that independent British programme-makers are given the support they need to reach the widest possible international audience.
- The GREAT Britain campaign showcases the best of what the UK has to offer to encourage people to visit, do business, invest and study in the UK. The campaign unites the efforts of the public and private sectors to generate jobs and growth for Britain and has already secured confirmed economic returns of £2.7 billion for the UK.
- Downton Abbey: The Exhibition will take visitors on an journey through the grand home of Downton Abbey and connect visitors with their favourite characters and locations, as well as showcasing never-before-seen footage and historic moments. Fans will even come up-close to over 50 official costumes worn by the cast including Michelle Dockery, Hugh Bonneville and Dame Maggie Smith. The experience also features a Downton-themed tea room and gift shop.
- The global tour will offer an in-depth insight into the remarkable time period in which the show is set. Spanning World War I and the post-war years to the Roaring Twenties, visitors will have the chance to learn about British society, culture and fashion, in addition to the historical events of the era which would go on to shape the world.
- Presented by NBCUniversal International Studios and Imagine Exhibitions, further information can be found at [www.downtonexhibition.com](http://www.downtonexhibition.com)