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**Councillor Claudia Webbe**  
**Executive Member for Environment**  
Labour Member for Bunhill Ward

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014

Mr Boris Johnson  
Mayor of London  
Greater London Authority  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

Dear Mr Johnson

**Re: Holloway Bus Garage – Make all buses hybrid**

Islington Council is committed to improving air quality and tackling pollution in our borough. We have taken action by becoming the first borough to introduce 20mph speed limits on all the roads we are responsible for and by clamping down on idling diesel vehicles.

We have also taken responsibility for the impact Council owned vehicles have on the environment in our borough by investing in making our fleet more environmentally friendly. The fleet is now the greenest local authority fleet in the country.

As a central London borough, Islington has extremely high volumes of traffic travelling on roads through our communities; including goods vehicles and Transport for London buses. The evidence is clear that the neighbourhoods that suffer the most from pollution are those with higher levels of deprivation. Many of the most deprived areas in the borough are situated on major roads with high traffic flows and correspondingly high pollutant concentration levels.

A significant contributing factor to the pollution levels in the borough are TfL diesel buses. I was shocked to learn that less than 25% of the 226 TfL buses based at the Holloway Bus Garage are hybrid models. Hybrid buses have been shown to produce around 40% less carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions, as well as producing fewer particulate matters than conventional diesel buses.

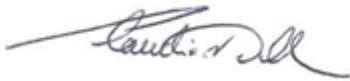
Not only are the more polluting TfL buses contributing to increased levels of pollution across the borough, they are leading to particularly high concentration levels around the bus garage. Many of the residents directly next to the garage entrance have severe health issues, including asthma and respiratory illnesses, and live in social housing without the option of moving home.

In order to improve air quality across Islington as a whole, and for the residents blighted by high levels of pollution immediately surrounding the Holloway Bus Garage, I would like you to commit to making 100 per cent of the buses based at the garage hybrid models by May 2016. To show your commitment to improving air quality and achieving this target, I would ask you to commit to 50 per cent of buses being hybrid by May 2015.

This relatively small step would go a long way towards improving air quality in Islington. Too many residents in Islington are dying too soon because of the air they breathe.

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claudia Webbe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

**Councillor Claudia Webbe**