

The right to safe air indoors: learning the lessons of the Covid-19 pandemic

Emergency policy motion

Submitted by: 45 members

Mover: Cllr Oliver Patrick

Conference notes with concern that:

- A. On 27th January 2023 the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommended the end of the Covid-19 booster vaccination programme for healthy persons.¹ The Government accepted these recommendations and ended the booster rollout on 12th February 2023.
- B. This makes the UK the only G7 nation to be scaling back its booster programme.
- C. Vaccines are a strong line of defence, but don't stop repeated infection with Covid-19 which correlates with poor health outcomes. Clinically Vulnerable persons and those recovering from Long Covid are at increased risk of poor health outcomes.
- D. Meanwhile, France² and Belgium³ are implementing a long-term strategy to reduce the transmission of Covid. In schools and public buildings, there are limits on CO₂ (a proxy for fresh air). Low CO₂ indoors means good ventilation, which correlates with lower transmission of airborne infections like Covid-19.⁴

Conference calls for:

1. The right to safe air indoors to become party policy.
2. Liberal Democrats in Parliament to regulate an indoor CO₂ limit of 800-1,000ppm⁵ in public buildings, achieved by tabling an amendment to the *Clean Air Bill*.
3. The Government to create a Ventilation Task Force to broaden the existing scientific knowledge, advise policymakers, and raise awareness through collaboration between built environment professionals, local and national authorities, trade unions, health professionals, manufacturers and installers of ventilation and air purification devices, and the scientific community.

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-2023-jcvi-interim-advice-8-november-2022/jcvi-statement-on-the-covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-2023-8-november-2022>

² See Article 4: <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000046830005>

³ <https://www.health.belgium.be/en/closer-legal-framework-indoor-air-quality>

⁴ As per SAGE advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emg-and-spi-b-application-of-co2-monitoring-as-an-approach-to-managing-ventilation-to-mitigate-sars-cov-2-transmission-27-may-2021>

⁵ This has been SAGE as well as CIBSE advice since 2021. See:

<https://www.cibse.org/knowledge-research/knowledge-resources/engineering-guidance/emerging-from-lockdown-cibse-covid-19-guidance>