

# Light Rail (UK) Ltd

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## ***The Hidden Costs of the Internal Combustion Engine***

Annex 1 - 1

1. The health evidence now available when the present Air Quality Strategy Objective for particles was set focused primarily on acute health effects. Medical evidence is now emerging which suggests that the long-term effects of particle air pollution (PM10s) are considerably more significant.
2. In its report published in May 2001, the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants considers that the total effect of long-term exposure on life expectancy for the whole population is about 10 times greater than that estimated for the short-term effects.
3. The Committee emphasised that although long-term effects were larger than the short-term effects, there were more uncertainties in these calculations.
4. More people die from respiratory disease in the UK than from coronary heart disease or cancer. In fact the UK has one of the highest death rates from respiratory disease in Europe - death rates are nearly twice the EU average and well above the European average.
5. A significant number of deaths between 25% - 40% (33,825 > 61,200 deaths) per annum, dependant which government figures are used, can now without doubt be attributed to tail pipe emissions & transport related pollutions.
6. The relative burden of respiratory in the UK is increasing as the burden of heart disease decreases with one in four now being killed by respiratory diseases.
7. It is not just individuals afflicted by respiratory disease only but a whole range of other illnesses such as heart problems, liver disorder itself daily in road-rage incidents are contributing to the of life for all



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*A not for profit Company promoting sustainable transport. Registered in England, United Kingdom No 04533783*

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## Annex 1 - 2

1. Direct Health Costs
2. UK health consultations in General Practice (Local doctors) were over 38 million consultations in 1999 due to respiratory disease.
3. Three quarters (76%) are consultations with a GP at their practice, around one fifth (22%) are with a GP at the patient's home, the remaining 2% are with a nurse (either at home or at a practice).
4. Overall Inpatient hospital treatment was over 740,00 inpatient cases treated for respiratory disease in National Health Service hospitals in 1999/2000.
5. These represent 9% of all inpatient cases in men and 5% in women.
6. In children aged 0 - 14 years there were over 210,000 inpatient cases for respiratory disease - 12% of all NHS hospital admissions in this age group in 1999/2000
7. Around two thirds (67%) of respiratory inpatients are emergency admissions and one-tenth (9%) day cases.
8. In 1999, drug treatment in England alone was around 49 million prescriptions dispensed for the prevention and treatment of respiratory disease. Just under half of these prescriptions were for bronchodilators used in the treatment of asthma.
9. The volume of prescription has increased in recent years.
10. Between 1994 and 1998 the prescription rate from GP's rose by 13%, coincidentally broadly similar to the rise in car usage.

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## Annex 1 - 3

1. In 1999/2000, there were over 10,500 operations for respiratory disease, which cost the UK
2. National Health Service £2,576 million made up as follows: -
3. Primary Care for respiratory disease across the UK costs £647.5.
4. Hospital Inpatient care costs £1,062.2 million
5. Hospital day case care costs £18.2 million.
6. Hospital outpatient care costs £40.7 million
7. 2,800,000 bed days per year used for treatment alone.
8. Other associated major costs
9. In 1999 alone, respiratory disease caused 153,000 deaths (74,000 men and 79,000 women), greater than the numbers killed by the great London Fog of 1952.
10. It is estimated that between 25% > 40% of these deaths are directly attributable to "Tail pipe Emissions" This number will vary dependant on which medical authorities figures are consulted
11. There is a further cost to the nation in the form of: -
12. Production losses due to respiratory disease £3,194 million
13. Mortality £1,643.6 million
14. Morbidity, working days lost 28,309,000 multiplied by the average daily earnings produces an estimated £2,239 million pound."



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15.	National Health Costs	£2,576 million p.a.
	Production Loss/Mortality Costs	£4,837 million p.a.
	Morbidity	<u>£2,239 million p.a.</u>
	Total Cost to the Nation	£9652 million p.a.

***Tail-pipe emission costs @ 25% = £2413 million p.a.***

***Tail-pipe emission costs @ 40% = £3860.08 million p.a.***

*\*Data supplied by The British Thoracic Society & HM Statistics.gov.uk*

16. In view of the above data which the Government are acquainted with, bearing in mind that the smokers are suing the tobacco producers, the "overweights" have successfully sued the Fast Food industry in the USA - how long before a similar action happens here?



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