

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Inquiry into air quality in Scotland

Written submission from Barry Watson

I live in Castlemilk in Glasgow about 4 miles from the City Centre in a Multi Storey at about 110 metres above sea level. I am an Elder at Castlemilk Parish Church which is an Eco-Congregation.

My interest in Air Quality is not so much that it is a specific local environmental issue; but in what I have observed from my bedroom window which is north facing, in certain weather conditions, especially during early mornings in the Autumn and Winter.

The horizon from this Window is the Kilpatrick Hills and the Campsies and I can also see Ben Lomond which is 32 miles away. On Autumn and Winter days when there has been a clear sky overnight and the sun is at a very low angle, a light brown mist is visible which can obscure the Campsies and the Kilpatrick Hills, which I would estimate to rise to about one or two thousand feet (by reference to what I can see on a clear day).

This mist is very difficult and technical to capture on camera and sometimes it is opaque rather than light brown. I tried on a number on number of occasions and the most successful was on 24 October 2016. I have also included a reference Image taken on 14 July 2016. I shared these image with Emilia Hannah, of Friends of the Earth Scotland who I understand has already attended the Committee. I have copied below the notes on the images from my emails to her which describe the conditions on the two days.

14 July 2016

Reference Image – Clear Day

“Taken this morning:- **DSCN 2493 taken at 0713**. Sunrise was at 0452





The horizon mid point in the image is Strathblane with Drumoyne and the Campsies on the east and Ben Lomond appearing behind the Kilpatrick hills on the West. Ben Lomond is approx 35 miles away from Castlemilk. A line due south of Ben Lomond arrives at Dumbarton. Would be a bit difficult to pick out a specific landmark how far west you can see, but I would say it may well be somewhere in the region of Helensburgh or Kilcreggan.

Grid North – On the r/h side of the image across the road you will see the Health Centre and three trees behind the car park. Grid North will be at the crown point of the highest of these trees.

Grid reference - I am almost exactly on Easting 60, so the Grid Reference would be 600591 on OS Explorer Map 342. The nearest contour is 100 metres and I am two floors up, so let's say I am at roughly 10 metres.

The camera I used is a Nikon Coolpix S 2550 set on maximum resolution. The image attributes are 3968 x 2232 (8.86MP) 24 bit. I also have a Fiji S9400W which is much more substantial and very high resolution but I am unable to use this as I would be reaching out of an open multi storey window which has safety catches.

The Met Office Glasgow forecast page this morning shows 0500 at 12°C and 0900 at 14°C and a 4mph Westerly.”

24 October 2016

Images DSCF 1467 (Normal focal length) 1469 and 1472 (Zoom) 3 out of ten images attached



“We had a 'Winter Smog' this morning and I took ten images which are attached. Instead of from my bedroom window I used my camera with zoom lens from the base of the flats and this seems to have worked quite well. I am still unsure of releasing the catches on my windows two floors up, even on a very calm day.

The EXIF technical details should show up on your screen when they are downloaded, including the focal lengths. The images were taken between 1002 and

1003 this morning; although the date/time stamp on the EXIF details show 2155 last night for some reason,

Numbers 1467 to 1472 are facing between NW and NNW. Numbers 1473 and 1474 are NE and 1475 and 1476 are approx North facing.

I was not sure what zoom length to use to get the best image; so it was guess work. I think the best image to illustrate what we want to show is 1469 where you can pick out what is called the 'Squinty Bridge' and the 'Armadillo' (Centre of the image). The smog which shows as 'dirty grey' appears to be north of the line of the Clyde. The focal length for this one was 43.7mm. Also 1472 which is the same direction but with a focal length of 22.8mm. The Armadillo in this image is now to the left of the tree in the foreground.

The Met Office Glasgow Page for 1000hrs this morning showed 5°C; Easterly 4mph, Moderate visibility (hmm? - not really); and 78% humidity. The Air Pollution Index shows only 1. The smog had mostly dissipated between 1200 and 1300hrs."

Altogether, I have 55 images taken on various days between July and October last year. If it would be useful, I can put these onto a CD for you.

A brief note on School Run delays; below is a description of such a delay from one of my emails to Emilia Hannah of FOE(S):-

"Yesterday (1 November 2016), I was going shopping at ASDA in Toryglen (approx a mile and three quarters). Part of the route along Menock Road between Crofthill Road uphill to the junction with Kingsbridge Drive is almost exactly half a mile. I saw that there was considerable traffic ahead so I timed this section - a full 14 minutes = just over two miles an hour. Traffic lights were introduced at this junction about three to four years ago. The whole delay was down to schools car traffic turning right for Kings Park Primary / Hilltop Nursery School in Kingsbridge Road. This traffic also has to cross Kings Park Road at another set of traffic lights which means that only one or two cars can turn right from Menock Road at every light sequence. Fortunately, I do not have to travel this section more than two or three times a month; but know that this section of Menock Road has been a problem for years; something which led to the installation of traffic lights at this junction."