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**From Howard Cox - Founder of FairFuelUK - Reform UK's London
Mayoral Candidate**

**Whistleblowers say Sadiq Khan's Regime Covers Up the Serious Toxic
Levels of Pollution in TfL's Underground**

**TfL keeps Levels of Asbestos, Arsenic and other Carcinogenic Dust
Pollutants in London Underground Network a Secret**

**I call for independent assessment of air quality in London's Tube & the
impact of vented emissions on surrounding roadside air**



Toxic TFL, Toxic Management, Toxic Mayor

When Tube workers, Mick and Rob contacted me as Reform UK's London Mayoral Candidate and founder of FairFuelUK, it was clear they had reached the end of their air quality crusading tether because of being so disrespectfully ignored by TfL and senior London politicians from both the Labour and Conservative Parties .

For at least 5 years they had been alerting senior management right up to and including London's Mayor Sadiq Khan, that the air quality working conditions in the Underground are not only way past unhealthy, they are in fact, dangerously toxic.

Every time they pointed out that their substandard protective equipment and working conditions did not protect them from the hazardous dust they were being ordered to remove, and that it contained many carcinogens including asbestos and arsenic, they were dismissed as trouble makers and threatened with the sack. **(Mick's employment has in fact now been terminated).**

Even asking for help from the City Hall Tory opposition including Mayoral candidate Susan Hall were met with a resounding silence and not one reply.

The incorrect health fatality data that Mayor Khan espouses emotively at every opportunity has shown his political and pathological dishonesty. Whilst hard pressed low income drivers and small businesses in one of the world's cleanest air quality cities are being fleeced at every opportunity he, through TfL, has completely ignored remedying the dangerous potentially fatal pollution levels being inflicted on workers and millions of travellers using London's Underground.

Mick and Rob's story shows it is patently obvious ULEZ is about raising money not improving the air we breathe.

Their stories are telling and best summed up as follows:

- **Cover ups at the highest level**
- **Illegal practices**
- **Victimisation and bullying culture**
- **Health of workers and the public ignored**
- **Damage to the environment**
- **Management incompetence**
- **Asbestos Exposure**
- **Illegal dumping of hazardous materials**

So, here is their story from their own lips: (Also their words are supported and verified by other members of the dust disposal team in further witness statements)

Whistleblower 1

'We (Micky Steeds and Rob Donnan) have made the difficult decision to expose TfL, The ORR, The RMT union and the Mayor Sadiq Khan for allowing dangerous, illegal practices to occur and continue without public scrutiny.

The only politician willing to assist us in exposing our story is Reform UK's Howard Cox. We are grateful for the help and support he has given to us both.

These issues are in the public interest and are of such great importance that it is felt there is no other option after being hit with barrier after barrier in trying to make working conditions safer.

Simply put, there is a continued cover up by the Mayor and TfL regarding dangerous working and travelling conditions in the Underground network.

The toll on our health has been impacted over the years for simply wanting action into legitimate health and safety concerns and rather than rectify, the company/TfL have put efforts into discrediting and covering up investigations. Ee the RMT union is willing to turn a blind eye.

Our job is within LUL as part of the Vents team, the job consists purely of removing dust from assets within the network for air quality and fire regulation adherence.

The mayor states that air quality is of the highest importance and is his number one priority yet is happy to allow his workers to suffer whilst working and the public risking their health using the underground whilst pushing his ULEZ agenda. All despite massively lower particle readings at roadside level.

On starting for the company, little training was provided and primarily consisted of turning up and going to the sites to do as the more experienced colleagues say. The fact the practices were dangerous and in parts illegal didn't come to light until further down the line.

Once access to the work documents were obtained it became apparent that a number of issues were in existence. These were reported to the operations manager and met with a defensive attitude and threats to our jobs. We were bullied to keep our mouths shut.

I (Rob) have been suffering from severe health issues suspected of being caused by the extreme levels of dust exposure, See letter from my GP below. I supplied a HSG53 document (covers respiratory protective equipment at work) explaining the RPE and PPE in use was insufficient to prevent my health getting worse, however was told that if I make a an issue out of this, I will lose my job.

I was refused improved equipment and warned to keep doctors reports to myself because the company will say that dust is everywhere on the underground and I would be sacked.

For the previous four years we had been actively disturbing asbestos without any asbestos survey report taking place, a legal requirement, no face fitting of RPE which again is a legal requirement and we were exposed to carcinogenic fumes through dangerous working practices. The manager ignored these disclosures and began a campaign of personal victimization seemingly backed by even more senior management.

The health and safety manager continued to inform us that everything is fine and asbestos surveys and face fitting is not required. All the time we continued to breathe in cancerous particles.

These issues were brought to the union's attention and although the local rep at the time tried to gain answers. He received no support from senior full-time reps and stood down.

An internal investigation took place in which the company waited three months to begin in which time they spent time covering up key facts. They even carried out the investigation whilst I was on annual leave subsequently refusing to speak to me and not raising all the health and working condition items I previously raised with them.

The dangerous practices continued and a formal grievance was raised, the company took in excess of six months to conclude 'not upheld', despite having proof that these issues had indeed taken place. My appeal was never answered and the minutes disregarded as irrelevant even though the manager hearing the complaint had admitted that the company accepts there was no face fitting and asbestos surveys undertaken.

How can you break working practice law and then say nothing is wrong?

I was forced out of the department for almost a year because the operations manager refused to accommodate me following my heartfelt legitimate complaints. I was only asked back, once he was on sick leave and being assured everything i complained about was now in order.

On returning to the department, it quickly became apparent that nothing had changed, and subsequently more unknown problems had taken place, more issues that undoubtedly effect our health, the public and environment yet the company continued to refuse these issues even existed.

The new senior manager simply stated 'things are changing but I am refusing to talk about the past despite many of the issues still being present.' The chargehand who helped cover up wrong doings had been promoted and then they brought the original manager back to work.

It came to light our industrial vacuum cleaners which were meant to be H class in order to filter the category of dust were not even M or L class, had no DOP test or maintenance records and were in need of condemning. We have been using this kit for years despite us reporting their lack of suitability

and how dangerous they had become. Leaking sucked up dust through poor seals on the kit itself and out into the tube network for passengers to breathe in. **See picture above.**

Paperwork showing that the dust is hazardous and was classed as special waste had shockingly for all these years been disposed of in general waste skips. Yes that's right, asbestos had been tipped into ordinary waste skips not hazardous material specialist sealed disposal receptacles.

So despite our complaints and genuine concerns on the impact on the public:

- **Asbestos was continuing to be disturbed.**
- **Inadequate non face fitted masks were still in use.**
- **The carcinogenic welding fumes through poor practice with vent fan procedure was still unresolved.**
- **No health surveillance was in place.**
- **No air monitoring was in place.**

Where has this hazardous waste been going for in excess of 30 years? The skip hire company are at risk, the public, the environment. So much for Sadiq being concerned with air quality and public health.

The company have been asked if this should be reported to the environment agency but yet again refuse to answer this question.

Filters had been cleared out and equipment dragged through public areas for all these years after cleaning asbestos fibres, our overalls were worn in public areas and shops and in vehicles. **The spread of toxic fibres is unmeasurable and shockingly worrying.**

Tfl continue with the mantra of nothing is wrong, nothing to answer to, yet eventually finally begin to make changes. The horse has already bolted, and their years of delays could have long term effects to hundreds of thousands of people.

Whistleblower 2

I (Micky) had been working for in excess of 15 months with a full beard and not face fitted but was told everything is fine by management, when face fitting eventually took place, I failed in a big way but still was sent to site in the same failed mask.

I was told to withhold my medical reports and my job was threatened. I was not supplied with a full-face mask for a further 2 years despite a safety bulletin stating this is the company's responsibility and will risk me serious health effects.

We had been dry sweeping in confined space areas where you can't see two feet in front of you, with no asbestos surveys but we were seriously disturbing asbestos dust into the air we and the public breathe. My mask offered insufficient protection and I was sick with worry for my health.

With a number of health and safety issues coming to light I've realised my health had been put in serious jeopardy, the company had lied regarding my failed face fitting, in COSHH reports and refused to answer my concerns into the worrying disposal of hazardous waste into general waste.

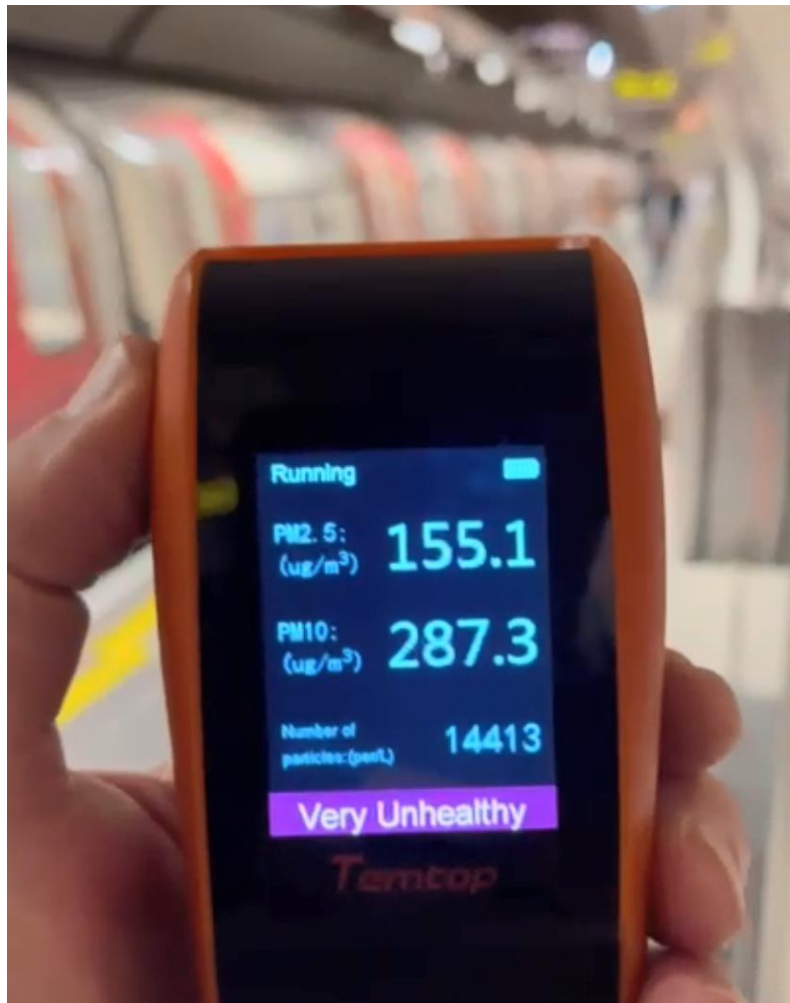
I reported an incident that had happened previously, and the company refused to speak to Rob despite him raising the same issue previously and continued to exclude him from investigations. Ironically Tfl's internal investigation findings admitted to legal failings, yet they were not upheld.

Their report has only been shared with myself so it can't be scrutinised externally, but a number of colleagues said the final report contained different things to those reported in the investigation. The report outcome was a deliberate fabricated lie and nothing but a corporate cover up. The report was doctored.

We were now aware these issues were widespread within the company meaning potentially many others were at risk, which is why we have a moral obligation to expose this sickening malpractice and demand a full public enquiry into who is at fault.

Below is a an analysis of particulate levels found at roadside levels outside London Underground Stations compared to measurements taken at platform levels. Date of this FairFuelUK analysis June 6th 2023. On average particulate pollution is between 14 to 18 times more at platform levels than at roadside levels.

Particulates in Tube	2.5 Micron PMs			10 Micron PMs			Air Q Index		
	Platform	Roadside	Difference	Platform	Roadside	Difference	Platform	Roadside	Dif
8 - 11am									
L Bridge	155.1	13.4	+1157%	287.3	15.4	+1866%	223	21	+
Bank	133.4	12.1	+1102%	288.7	14.2	+2033%	201	19	+
Old Street	167.8	11.5	+1459%	259.2	17.3	+1498%	243	21	+
Euston	155.9	9.6	+1624%	223.7	16.4	+1364%	198	23	+
Brent Cross	133.9	7.7	+1739%	289.3	12.3	+2352%	216	19	+
Westminster	179.2	9.4	+1906%	276.2	11.8	+2341%	222	18	+
Baker Street	165.2	13.9	+1189%	209.4	16.4	+1277%	211	23	+
Wembley Pk	168.4	11.8	+1427%	233.9	15.4	+1519%	209	16	+
Rayners Ln	171.5	15.9	+1079%	219.9	18.9	+1163%	205	21	+
Acton Lane	173.7	12.2	+1423%	277.8	14.7	+1890%	243	21	+
Earls Court	177.8	13.8	+1288%	301.2	15.2	+1982%	211	23	+
Victoria	181.0	9.3	+1946%	266.2	12.6	+2113%	213	22	+
Stockwell	181.1	8.4	+2156%	244.5	11.4	+2145%	256	17	+
E & Castle	187.2	9.6	+1950%	277.3	11.9	+2330%	217	19	+
L Bridge 2pm	152.5	11.3	+1350%	276.8	14.2	+1949%	218	22	+
Average	165.6	11.3	+1462%	262.1	14.5	+1803%	219	20.3	+



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Background: Since 2011 the APPG for Fair Fuel for UK Motorists and UK Hauliers has examined major issues that impact on UK drivers. Along with FairFuelUK, it has been a major influencer on keeping Fuel Duty frozen since 2011. As well as fuel taxation, other issues addressed by the APPG that impact on drivers, have included congestion charges, ULEZ/CAZs, parking costs, roads investment, unfair treatment for fossil fuelled vehicle owners, solutions to lower emissions, cleaner fuel incentives, alternative technology options and transparent pricing at the fuel pumps with a continual call for PumpWatch. With the expected decline in Fuel Duty revenue, the APPG will also formulate a long-term approach to the future of road taxation and a positive transport strategy for all road users. <https://fairfueluk.com>

Since 2010 FairFuelUK has saved drivers over £200bn in planned tax hikes in duty and VAT through constructive and objective campaigning. Had FairFuelUK not campaigned to scrap the fuel duty escalator, fuel tax today would be 90p/lit rather than 57.95p/lit. Today we would be paying £2.40+ per litre at the pumps had FairFuelUK not fought for the World's highest taxed drivers. Because of the Campaign, inflation is down 6.7% and £24bn has been put back into consumer spending each and every year since 2011.

FairFuelUK is a public affairs team with no shareholders to satisfy, just an award-winning campaign representing the real concerns of hard-working motorists, families, small businesses, commercial drivers and hauliers across the UK. Decades of fiscal exploitation by successive Governments with little in return, warrants the need for FairFuelUK.

For 12 years, this award winning campaign was previously funded and backed by the RHA, and Logistics UK and other respected organisations, 1.7m supporters and 146 MPs . FairFuelUK is fronted by the Campaign's Founder Howard Cox. Previous backers have included the RAC, Association of Pallet Networks, UKLPG and many others including donations from the public.

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