



c/o COMEAP Secretariat
Air Pollution and Climate Change Group
Public Health England
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10th June 2015

Dear Dr Ucci

I would like to thank you and the UKIEG Committee for your letter of 4th February 2015. The letter was discussed at the recent meeting of COMEAP's strategy group where it was considered by me, the QUARK chairman, our sponsor department, the Department of Health, the Secretariat and other assessors.

Whilst the UKIEG's concerns about the lack indoor air pollution / pollutant content of COMEAP's work programme was acknowledged, it was agreed that the Committee's work had out of necessity, been dominated by ambient air pollutants. This was due to pressing needs from policy leads, in particular from Defra, for consideration of the effects of ambient air pollutants on health to inform their air quality strategy: a health-based strategy. This work has taken priority, despite COMEAP's remit including both ambient and indoor air pollution. Given the current work priorities for COMEAP over the coming years, it is unlikely that COMEAP will be engaging in work on indoor air pollutants, certainly over the coming year, due to similar pressing needs from Defra.

Members of the strategy group suggested that as a course of action, the UKIEG might contact the policy leads of different government departments that have particular interests in the indoor environment. The Department of Health, whilst the sponsor for COMEAP and thus the appropriate Department to contact regarding requests to COMEAP, is not the government lead on indoor air pollutants: in fact, there is currently no one government department that leads in this field.

The Department of Health suggested that the UKIEG might consider contacting DCLG (Communities and Local Government: policy lead Mr Paul Decort, the policy lead for the energy efficiency, ventilation and combustion safety requirements of the Building Regulations). This department has perhaps the most relevant interest given the specific current needs you raise in your letter, although, of course, there are others such as Department of Energy and Climate Change and

Business Innovation and Skills. You may also be interested to know that an internal air public health quality standard has been referred to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for development.

From our discussions, the strategy group also thought it might help if UKIEG, in its request to have indoor pollutants addressed, was to provide specific questions with some indication of how pressing the need might be to address these questions for the UK, based either on current research or EU guidance. This would assist the appropriate government department in establishing the most suitable method for addressing the questions posed. I hope this goes some way to help the UKIEG in its request for us to consider the issue of indoor air pollution and that you find the information provided helpful.

I wish you all the best in your endeavour.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the start of the first name and a long horizontal stroke under the last name.

Professor Frank Kelly

COMEAP Chairman

cc. Paul Holley – DH
Sotiris Vardoulakis – PHE
Paul Decort - DCLG