

ANNEX A: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT LETTER TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES 13 MARCH 2017

Ref: 202300357359

To: Local Authority Environmental Health Officers

Your ref:
Our ref:
13 March 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

VEHICLE EMISSIONS TESTING – APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT 2017/18

The purpose of this letter is to invite local authorities to apply for grant to assist them in making use of the powers in the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (Scotland) Regulations 2003.

These Regulations permit all Scottish local authorities to apply to the Scottish Ministers for powers to conduct roadside emissions tests, and to issue fixed penalties of £60 to drivers whose vehicles fail.

The Regulations also permit local authorities to request drivers to switch off vehicle engines being run unnecessarily when parked and to issue fixed penalties of £20 to those drivers who refuse to co-operate.

Both sets of powers are optional. The Scottish Government sees the powers as providing an additional tool for local authorities in managing air quality in their areas. As such, authorities themselves are best placed to decide whether to make use of the powers, depending on their particular circumstances.

As this grant is specific in purpose, it is not one of those which has been rolled up into the General Capital Grant following the Concordat signed by the Scottish Ministers and the COSLA Presidential Team.

Application

£0.5m is available for 2017/18 to provide financial support to local authorities conducting roadside tests, enforcing idling legislation and undertaking publicity campaigns. For 2017/18 equal weight will continue to be given to all three of these elements. However there is increasing evidence that very few vehicles are failing the roadside emissions test. The Scottish Government, following discussions with local authorities, has therefore decided that the scheme will be refocused over the coming years, with greater emphasis on idling enforcement and publicity campaigns, and less on testing. There will also be more focus on the potential for alternative technologies to be used in testing, and consideration of whether any continuing conventional testing can be made more cost effective by co-ordinating with other related enforcement legislation e.g. smoking in vehicles.

The overall aim is to ensure that the scheme continue to contribute to overall Scottish Government work to improve air quality, notably the actions set out in Cleaner Air for Scotland. Local authorities should bear these points in mind where making their application

and also in the context of their longer term plans for future years.

Any authority wishing to make use of the powers should apply using the attached application form. The application should contain the following information:

- in general terms, the benefits which the authority expects to arise from testing in relation to managing, maintaining or improving air quality in its area;
- the locations within the local authority area where testing is to be carried out;
- the number of test days anticipated between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018;
- the number of local authority staff likely to be engaged in testing;
- whether the authority will be employing contractors to undertake testing on its behalf;
- details of arrangements that the authority has or will have with the police for stopping vehicles;
- whether the authority will be undertaking testing on its own or in partnership with neighbouring authorities;
- details of planned idling enforcement;
- details of planned publicity campaigns and other awareness raising initiatives; and
- the estimated costs to the authority of these activities in 2017/18.

Local authorities should bear in mind that anyone engaged in testing, whether council employees or contractors, must have completed a training course approved by the Scottish Ministers. Any equipment used for testing must be on VOSA's approved list. Further information is provided in the guidance which was issued to local authorities in April 2003 to assist them in making use of the powers.

Any award of grant will be subject to the Scottish Government's terms and conditions, which will be sent to successful applicants.

Authorities in receipt of grant for 2016/17

These authorities should note that any uncommitted grant received for vehicle emissions testing in 2016/17 cannot be carried over to 2017/18 – a new application will be required. However the authorities concerned are not required to request formal permission to make use of the powers again, nor to provide any of the information listed above which has been provided previously.

Applications should be submitted electronically by **21 April 2017**. If you have any questions about the application process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Air Quality Policy Manager
Scottish Government
Directorate For Environment & Forestry
Environmental Quality Division

ANNEX B: Application Form

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VEHICLE EMISSIONS TESTING - APPLICATION FOR FUNDING 2017/18

Details	Estimated costs
Staff Training:	
Staff Time:	
Purchased equipment:	
Hired equipment:	
Employment of contractors:	
Publicity:	

Police support:	
Administrative costs:	
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS:	
AMOUNT OF GRANT APPLIED FOR (IF LESS THAN TOTAL COSTS):	

Please return this form together with your letter of application by email (hard copies are not required) to:

REDACTED@gov.scot