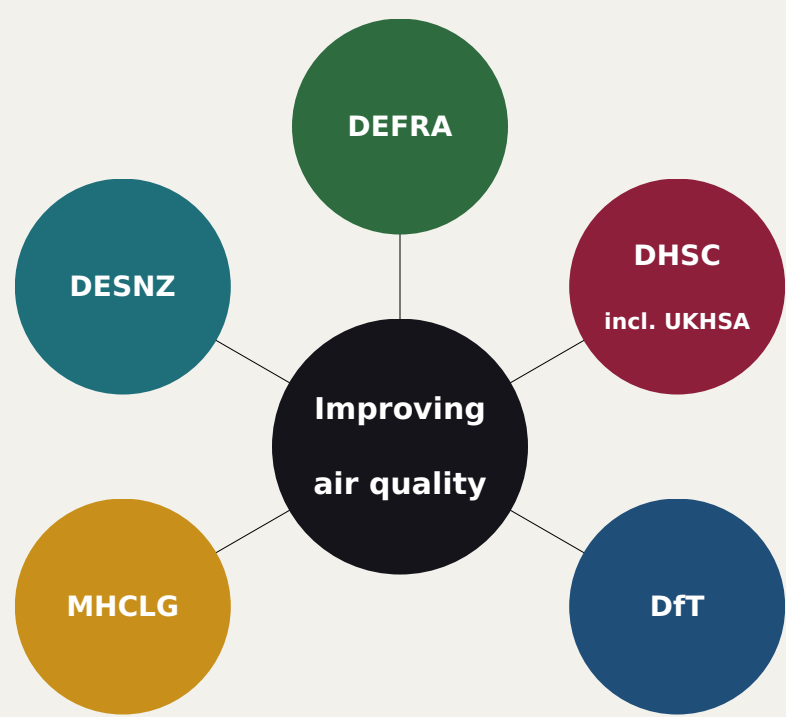


Cross-government working on air quality

How departmental responsibilities connect across the air quality agenda, coordinated through cross-government working.



● Defra Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	Leads on ambient outdoor air quality policy, including setting targets, managing compliance with national emissions ceilings, and overseeing the implementation of air quality plans to meet legal obligations. Responsible for Local Air Quality Management and works with local authorities to support delivery. Provides the core evidence and modelling underpinning national policy, including monitoring networks and emissions inventories, and leads on NO ₂ compliance, evaluation of the NO ₂ programme, and development of local evidence. Also covers industrial and agricultural emissions policy, international air quality commitments, and statutory reporting and compliance, and plays a central role in coordinating x-government action and leading public awareness on air pollution.
● DHSC Department of Health & Social Care (including UKHSA)	Leads on the health impacts of air pollution, including funding and overseeing health research and strengthening the evidence base on exposure and outcomes. Responsible for delivery of UKHSA’s Cleaner Air Programme and ensures air quality is integrated into wider health priorities, including through the NHS 10-Year Plan. Provides expert advice through the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) and supports the health system’s response to air pollution, including guidance for clinicians and protection of vulnerable groups. Plays a coordinating role on indoor air quality evidence and research, working x-government to bring together evidence to support policy and delivery levers, and leads on public health messaging and embedding air quality into prevention, inequalities and wider population health policy.
● DfT Department for Transport	Leads on reducing emissions from transport, a major contributor to air pollution. This includes responsibility for the transition to zero emission vehicles and Clean Air Zone policy. Leads action across road, rail, aviation and maritime sectors, including leadership on international emissions standards. Leads on investment in public transport, active travel and sustainable transport infrastructure, including providing local transport funding to enhance local transport networks and, alongside DESNZ, supporting the deployment of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.
● MHCLG Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Has a role in embedding air quality into the planning system and local delivery frameworks. Responsible for planning policy and housing standards—including the Future Homes Standard—and ensuring air quality considerations are reflected in development decisions. Oversees local government structures, including devolution and governance arrangements, and is responsible for local authority finance and funding mechanisms that support delivery. Also influences how air quality is addressed through place-based policy, including regeneration, housing and infrastructure, and plays an important role in ensuring local authorities have the powers and capacity needed to deliver improvements.
● DESNZ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero	Leads on reducing emissions from the energy system, industry and buildings, supporting the transition to clean energy and net zero. Its policies on power generation, domestic heating and industrial decarbonisation help cut air pollutants alongside greenhouse gas emissions, and it plays a key role in developing emissions projections and maintaining national emissions inventories in partnership with Defra.