

## Written evidence submitted by Adrienne Williams (AQU0040)

I am 63 years of age. My partner, daughter and I lived in Spain from 2008 until 2014. Whilst there none of us had any health problems other than usual occasional colds. Whilst there we lived in a small town not far from Barcelona. When we returned to the UK we lived to start with near Kings Lynn. Within a few months both my daughter and I were ill with respiratory problems which required visits to A & E. We were both eventually diagnosed with asthma. The only difference we could think of was having to live closer to busy roads as the UK is much more densely populated than Spain. We also began to notice in the winter smoke in the air from people's wood burning stoves.

We now own a house in Wales but are living temporarily on The Isle of Wight whilst work is carried out. We lived in Wales whilst we were waiting for work to start and we noticed how bad the air quality was in Winter as people lit their wood burning stoves. We bought an air quality meter which recorded daily readings of PM2.5 and PM10 levels which were in the unhealthy range.

Photographs below show: reading taken in village in 2019 ; smoke from wood burning stoves in Welsh village

Wales  
2019.



Whilst living on The Isle of Wight we have taken frequent readings similar to that above. In addition we frequently experience high readings of NO<sub>2</sub> despite not being on a busy road. It is now the height of summer and in addition to NO<sub>2</sub> we smell smoke on a daily basis from neighbours having barbecues, using fire pits and lighting bonfires. Bonfires and barbecues on the nearby beach are a frequent occurrence.

Domestic wood and coal burning must be banned. Banning the sale of wet wood is simply not enough and most people in our Welsh village just burn any crap they want to get rid of and logs inadequately stored outdoors. Most wood burning stoves are fashionable accessories and are not needed to heat people's homes. In the few cases where there is no alternative heating available help should be given to individuals to switch to a cleaner form of heating. Garden bonfires and fire pits should be banned and local councils given help to offer free garden and building waste collections.

Help should be given for community schemes to generate electricity. Is there any reason why every village should not have its own wind turbine?

There needs to be more financial incentive for individuals to install renewable energy generators such as solar panels and heat pumps.

All new buildings should have solar panels.