



Light Rail (UK)

# All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group

House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

*Trams, a catalyst for Clean Air, Connectivity, Jobs & Growth*



## Air pollution poses a risk to thinking skills in later life.

**Greater exposure to air pollution is associated with a decline in cognitive skills in later life, according to researchers at the University of Edinburgh.**

The researchers tested the general intelligence of more than 500 people aged approximately 70 years old, using a test they had all completed at the age of 11 years.

The participants then repeated the same test at the ages of 76 and 79.

A record of where each person had lived throughout their life was then used to estimate the level of air pollution they had experienced in their early years.

The team then used statistical models to analyse the relationship between air pollution exposure and their thinking skills in later life, they also considered lifestyle factors, such as socio-economic status and smoking.

The researchers found that exposure to air pollution in childhood had a small but detectable association with worse cognitive change between the age of 11 and 70.

Dr Tom Russ, director of the Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Research Centre at the University of Edinburgh, said: 'For the first time we have shown the effect that exposure to air pollution very early in life could have on the brain many decades later. This is the first step towards understanding the harmful effects of air pollution on the brain and could help reduce the risk of dementia for future generations.'

Courtesy

Air Quality Magazine 03.02.21

PIPPA NEILL

This meeting by invitation only, where MPs, Stakeholders etc., within the Light Rail industry and invited members of the Public will have a chance to discuss debate and raise questions concerning Light Rail & Trams.



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Supported by  
The Light Rail Transit  
Association



supports this meeting with volunteers  
Contact [www.ltra.org](http://www.ltra.org) for further details.

**Next Meeting.**  
**17<sup>th</sup> March 2021,**  
**Details to follow:**

**RSVP** [jimh@jimmyharkins.com](mailto:jimh@jimmyharkins.com)