

## Request

Could you please provide the information of how many deaths occurred in the Borough that were attributed to vehicular pollution caused by carbon emissions in the last five years please?

## Response

While we are unable to directly answer the question, as data for deaths attributable to pollution *from vehicles* is not available, the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) publish an indicator on their Fingertips website that is likely to be useful: 'Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution' (Wigan data is here: [Public health profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)).

This indicator estimates the percentage of deaths in a given year that will be due to man-made air pollution in a given area, based on annual averages of Defra's measurements of air pollution and modelled estimates of mortality risks. The indicator cannot be broken down by source of admission (e.g. vehicles).

A more detailed explanation of the indicator definition can be found on the Fingertips site here: [Public health profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#).

OHID include the following caveats to be considered when using this indicator:

- There is no accepted way of fully quantifying the uncertainty associated with modelled concentrations of particulate matter.
- Concentrations of particulate matter vary from year to year due to the weather. This variation due to weather is generally greater than the year to year variation from changes in emissions.
- As the 2020 data for this indicator includes the period from March 2020 onwards, the mortality data used in its calculation will reflect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore attributable fractions in this period should be interpreted with caution.

The annual number of deaths in each Local authority is published by the Office for National Statistics on their website, here: [ONS](#). However, we would urge caution if applying the indicator percentages to the number of deaths, given the caveats listed above and that the indicator estimate is based on deaths in people aged 30+; the ONS deaths figures are for all ages.