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Monday, April 2, 2012

CITY EDITION

47p

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» P48



## GOOD GOLLY IT'S 10 STONE ROTTWEILER MOLLY

» PAMPERED DOG JOINS PET FIT CLUB: PAGE 5



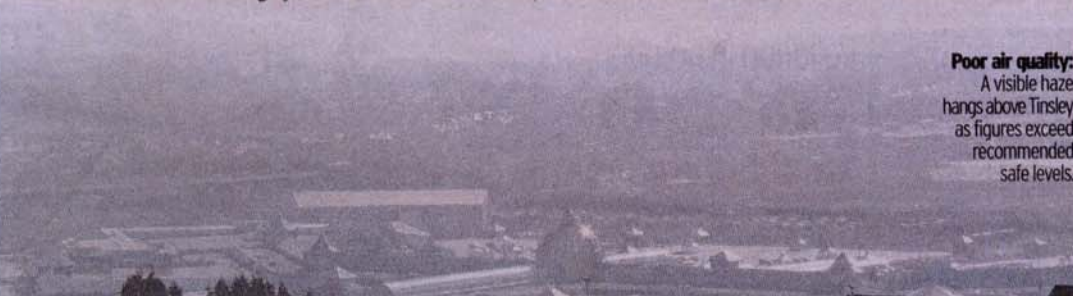
## Full Time

### HOTSHOTS ARE UP FOR PROMOTION BATTLE

» SPORTS PULLOUT INSIDE



### Campaigners call for quality improvements as residents with breathing problems are prevented from leaving home



**Poor air quality:**  
A visible haze hangs above Tinsley as figures exceed recommended safe levels.

# AIR POLLUTION SIX TIMES OVER LIMIT

by **RICHARD MARSDEN**  
News Reporter

POLLUTION in some Sheffield neighbourhoods has soared to more than six times the world-recommended safe limit, The Star can reveal.

Residents suffering breathing problems such as asthma say the pollution - visible as a haze hanging over the city in calm, still air - has prevented them leaving their homes.

Monitoring equipment at locations around Sheffield has shown pollution levels from vehicles reached 125 at Lowfield School, on the edge of the city centre, and 108 in Tinsley.

The World Health Organisation

» Continues on Page 2

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THE WEATHER

Today

**YORKSHIRE:** It looks set to be cloudy and grey with showery outbreaks of light rain and drizzles. Moderate north-westerly winds. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

**BRITAIN:** Cold with rain in North Scotland, falling increasingly as snow. Some settling snow for the Highlands. Rain for southern Scotland. Dry across southern England with some early sunny spells. Cloudy elsewhere with showers edging southwards.

**SUN & MOON:** Sun: Rises 06.36 Sets 19.43  
Moon: Rises 14.26 Sets 04.20

**LIGHTING UP:** Sheffield 19.43 - 06.33  
London 19.36 - 06.31 Glasgow 19.57 - 06.42



Tomorrow

**YORKSHIRE:** Early rain, sleet and snow should clear southwards in the morning. It should then brighten up with sunny spells, but also scattered wintry showers. Moderate north-easterly winds. Cold for April. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F).

The week ahead

**WEDNESDAY**  
Sunshine and a few wintry showers. Cold.

**THURSDAY**  
Mainly dry. Sunny spells and variable cloud.

**FRIDAY**  
Mainly cloudy with rain in the afternoon.

The World

Country	City	Weather	F	C	£ Abroad
Britain	Sheffield	sunny	10	10	-
Australia	Sydney	fair	73	23	1.45 Dtrs
Canada	Toronto	sunny	41	5	1.52 Dtrs
Canary Islands	fair	70	21	1.14 Euro	
Cyprus	Larnaca	sunny	64	18	1.14 Euro
France	Paris	sunny	50	10	1.14 Euro
Greece	Athens	sunny	59	15	1.14 Euro
Ibiza	San Antonio	cloudy	64	18	1.14 Euro
Italy	Rome	fair	64	18	1.14 Euro
Majorca	Palma	sunny	64	18	1.14 Euro
Portugal	Faro	fair	63	17	1.14 Euro
Spain	Barcelona	sunny	66	19	1.14 Euro
Turkey	Istanbul	cloudy	57	14	2.87 Turkey
USA	Miami	cloudy	64	29	1.53 Dtrs

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by RICHARD MARSDEN  
News Reporter

ON warm sunny days a visible haze can be seen hovering over Sheffield.

It may look like balmy spring sunshine but in reality it's a serious threat to the health of city residents which is costing the NHS millions of pounds each year.

The smog of pollution trapped between Sheffield's hills during warm weather has kept retired primary school teacher and asthmatic Sylvia Hamilton indoors.

Mrs Hamilton, aged 70, who lives with her husband at Olivers Mount in Darnall, just a mile from the M1 motorway said: "There have been some days when I have been unable to go outdoors. "I have also had to take extra ventolin medication to control my asthma.

"There is a particular problem in this area from the M1 and I think there should be a lower speed limit on the motorway to reduce it."

There is a rise in particles in warm weather

It's not just the Tinsley and Darnall area that is affected.

Vehicle pollution is also a concern in congested suburbs on the other side of Sheffield - with Broomhill being one of the worst-affected areas.

Howard Fry, secretary of Broomhill Forum, said: "Whenever there is warm weather like we have just been having, particulates increase and it's particularly bad for elderly people. "Solutions are difficult, but one idea is reducing the amount of stop-start traffic and getting vehicles to move more smoothly through our suburb."

# Trapped indoors by air pollution

Asthma sufferer wants M1 speed limit to be lower

## Pollution in numbers

**20**  
Micrograms per cubic metre - maximum safe level according to World Health Authority.

**125**  
Micrograms per cubic metre - level recorded in Lowfield, Sheffield, on March 23, 2012.

**40**  
Micrograms per cubic metre - maximum limit in European Union to be enforced from 2015.

**108**  
micrograms per cubic metre - level recorded at Tinsley, on March 23, 2012.

**Extra medication:** Retired school teacher Sylvia Hamilton struggles to go outside on high pollution days.

## Figures greatly exceed recommended safe levels

Continued from page one  
says it should be just 20.

Campaigners calling for air quality improvements say the health problems pollution causes costs up to £160 million a year in NHS treatments and lost days at work.

Retired steelworker Karamat Hussain, 67, and his wife Shan, who also suffers asthma and angina, have a

pollution monitoring station in the garden of their home at Town Street, Tinsley.

Mr Hussain, who has lived in Tinsley for 58 years, said: "The pollution showing on the monitor was high all the time during the sunny weather."

"I can remember when the M1 was built in the 1960s. The authorities said people in the area would not suffer

healthwise but the opposite is true.

"The pollution does not help my wife's health. We need something to be done for the benefit of youngsters and elderly people in the area."

Neil Parry, of Sheffield East End Quality of Life Initiative, which is campaigning for cleaner air, said: "We have had some lovely sunny

weather recently but people with respiratory or cardiovascular health condition are likely to be suffering bad days because with high pressure comes big increases in air pollution.

"The social cost of air pollution in Sheffield is £160 million per year with untold misery for vulnerable people.

"The city council needs to

create a low emission zone to restrict polluting vehicles and the Highways Agency needs to cut speed limits on the M1 around Tinsley.

"Walking, cycling or taking public transport would also help reduce air pollution and the physical activity would do us all some good. Air pollution is bad for the economy and health of Sheffield's citizens."

