## Pollution

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Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likely consequences for public health of proposed levels of investment in regular monitoring of noise, air and water pollution in England over the next three years. [HL3055]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Lord De Mauley) (Con):

Evidence budgets in Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England for the next and subsequent financial years have not yet been finalised. No assessment of the likely consequences for public health of investment in regular monitoring of noise, air and water pollution in England has been made. However, while monitoring data may be used in assessments, investment in monitoring is not thought to produce any direct impacts on public health.

Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding levels they propose for the regular measurement of noise, air and water pollution over the next three years. [HL3059]

Lord De Mauley:

Evidence budgets for Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England for the next and subsequent financial year have not yet been finalised. During the financial year 2013/14, Defra has allocated the following funds to regular measurements in these areas:
 Air pollution: £5,980,000 Water pollution: approximately £19 million
This includes work carried out by the Environment Agency and Natural England.
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Measurements undertaken for air pollution serve both statutory and research needs and include measurements of concentration in air, deposition of pollutants and quality assurance of data.

The Government does not routinely carry out noise measurements. Occasional studies are carried out to examine changes in noise level at particular locations and also any changes in noise level by time of day. One such study is nearing completion and cost approximately £220,000.

While there will be some reduction in budget in future years to help meet headline reductions in departmental spend, work is ongoing to establish the rate and level of such reductions.

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