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Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle,
House of Lords,
London,
SW1A 0PW

13 October 2025

Dear Natalie

I'd like to thank you for the interesting debate on the amendments to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill regarding Climate and Emergencies.

I committed to write to you regarding the CO2 monitors that the department provided between September 2021 and April 2023.

The department does not collect data on how many of these CO2 monitors are still in use or the readings that they take. The CO2 monitors were provided to help those that run schools to manage ventilation and to identify poorly ventilated spaces. As such, the CO2 monitors are managed at a local level.

The department has published guidance on how to use CO2 monitors, as well as air cleaning units, which can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-co-monitors-and-air-cleaning-units-in-education-and-care-settings>. This includes guidance on understanding CO2 monitor readings.

The department supports and works with a range of academics to understand the research relating to air quality in schools.

For example, the department has supported the Schools' Air quality Monitoring for Health and Education (SAMHE) which is a collaboration between various UK universities and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) carrying out research around air quality in schools. As part of the project, over 1000 schools received a SAMHE air quality monitor and access to the SAMHE Web App. The SAMHE team have published papers and reports based on the data gathered through the SAMHE monitors.

Thank you again for taking the time to engage on these matters. I hope these further details have been useful and I will place a copy in the House libraries.

Yours sincerely,

BARONESS BLAKE OF LEEDS, CBE