(*Date*)

Dear (*insert name*)

I’m contacting you as I recently observed one of your company’s vehicles idling (leaving the engine running) whilst stationary on a public road for a significant period of time.

The vehicle in question was Reg:………………Place………………..…………….  
Date: ……………Time………………………..……..

You may or may not be aware that idling is illegal. Rule 123 of the Highway Code states that ‘if the vehicle is stationary and is likely to remain so for more than a couple of minutes, you should apply the parking brake and switch off the engine to reduce emissions and noise pollution’. If challenged by a traffic regulations enforcer, the driver (or their company) may be liable to a fine of between £20 and £80.

The health impacts of vehicle emissions are major. An idling engine gives off nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. In just one minute it emits enough fumes to fill 150 balloons with toxic air. The latest research from the Transport Research Laboratory and Idling Action indicates that idling for 30 seconds produces nearly twice as much pollution as switching off then restarting your engine. This affects everyone’s health, from unborn babies to the elderly. Transport emissions cause asthma, strokes, lung diseases, heart and brain damage. Lives are shortened. The Royal College of Physicians estimates [40,000 deaths a year in the UK are linked to air pollution](https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/every-breath-we-take-lifelong-impact-air-pollution).

80% of the British public are concerned about climate change caused by burning fossil fuels. I’m sure you will want to present the best possible forward-facing image to the public and your customers by demonstrating that your vehicles do not waste fuel.

Finally, of course, turning off the engine saves your company money!

If your drivers are concerned about keeping warm, engines retain heat for up to an hour after being switched off. Phones can usually be charged with just the electrics being switched on: the engine itself does not need starting.

I hope you will feel able to require your drivers to turn off their engines whilst stationary or parked and make this company policy.

Thank you for reading this. Your contribution to a healthier and safer world is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Further information <https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/emissions/idling/>