

Summary of More Or Less (BBC Radio 4 on 8 February 2019) Investigation in PM2.5 particulate levels.

The Governments claim that 38% of all PM2.5's are produced from domestic wood and coal burning is based on figures deducted from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory. It worked out the level of emissions through two sources of data.

- 1) A survey by Government concerning the number of homes burning wood and the way they are doing, i.e. open fire or stoves.
- 2) A calculation of the average pollution produced burning wood in a **stove and open fires** based on the assumption that stoves/open fires are used **40 hrs a week in the winter and 20hrs a week in the summer**. It also assumed that stoves were of the older less efficient models.

The report was concerned with the proportion of particulates produced solely by the U.K. (this is only 50% of all particulates in the atmosphere).

This data combined to produce a figure of 38%, this was three times higher than the last survey undertaken in 2015. Even the report compilers themselves admitted that its results could be out by a factor of 10, meaning it could be as low as 3.8%.

Another way of determining the levels of particulates in the atmosphere is through actual physical measurement and analysis. Some work undertaken by a leading scientist in the field of atmospheric pollution produced a finding showing that the level PM2.5 produced by domestic wood and coal is actually 6-9% in urban areas and 4% in rural areas as a proportion of total particulates. It should be remembered that half of the particulates in the atmosphere are produced naturally or come from Europe.

By way of comparison the total amount of particulates produced via transport (brake dust, tyres, concrete, fuel etc) was 12%.