



2013 Air Quality Progress Report for Omagh District Council

In fulfillment of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order
2002 - Local Air Quality Management

January 2014

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Executive Summary

The Environment (NI) Order 2002 and subsequent regulations place a duty on district councils to undertake regular review of air quality in their area. The Local Air Quality Management regime provides the framework for review of a range of air pollutants against objectives outlined in the Northern Ireland Air Quality Strategy. This Progress Report has been prepared in accordance with Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(O9).

The report determined that there have been no significant changes to sources of air pollution in the Omagh District Council area since the last air quality review and concluded that the relevant air quality objectives are being met for the prescribed pollutants.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Description of Local Authority Area

Omagh District Council is located within County Tyrone and has an area of approximately 1128km² (440 square miles) making it the second largest local government district in terms of area in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Census 2011 published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency estimates Omagh District Council to have a population of 51,396. Omagh District Council is located some 70 miles from Belfast City Council and 34 miles from Derry City Council.

It occupies a central position in the west of the province with much of the District being characterised as marginal upland with its northern boundaries rising to over 400m above sea level in the Sperrin Mountain Range.

The District is largely centred on Omagh, being the county town of Tyrone with a number of satellite villages and a dispersed rural settlement pattern typical of rural Northern Ireland. More information on the area is available on the web site www.omagh.gov.uk

The District is totally reliant on road based transport with two main routes dominating the roadways – the A5 running from south east to north west which is essentially the main Belfast/Londonderry route and the A505/A32 running from north-east to south-west which connects to the neighbouring main market towns of Cookstown to the east and Enniskillen to the west. Both routes run through Omagh town.

Omagh District does not have a large manufacturing base. There are two industrial estates within Omagh town, which contain mainly service related warehousing and a number of small engineering works.

1.2 Purpose of Progress Report

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management process as set out in the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where exceedences are considered likely, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.

Progress Reports are required in the intervening years between the three-yearly Updating and Screening Assessment reports. Their purpose is to maintain continuity in the Local Air Quality Management process.

1.3 Air Quality Objectives

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in Northern Ireland are set out in the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland 2003, no. 342, and are shown in Table 1.1. This table shows the objectives in units of microgrammes per cubic metre $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (milligrammes per cubic metre, mg/m^3 for carbon monoxide) with the number of exceedences in each year that are permitted (where applicable).

Table 1.3.1 Air Quality Objectives included in Regulations for the purpose of LAQM in Northern Ireland

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective		Date to be achieved by
	Concentration	Measured as	
Benzene	16.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Running mean annual	31.12.2003
	3.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Running mean annual	31.12.2010
1,3-Butadiene	2.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Running mean annual	31.12.2003
Carbon monoxide	10 mg/m^3	Running mean 8-hour	31.12.2003
Lead	0.50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2004
	0.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2008
Nitrogen dioxide	200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005
	40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2005
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀) (gravimetric)	50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide	350 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004
	125 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	266 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean	31.12.2005

1.4 Summary of Previous Review and Assessments

Table 1.4.1 Air Quality Objectives included in Regulations for the purpose of LAQM in Northern Ireland

Stage 1 Review and Assessment 2001	The first stage assessment identified three pollutants of concern namely nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate matter at risk of exceeding the strategy objectives.
Stage 2/3 Review and Assessment 2004	Following on from the findings of stage 1, a more detailed assessment of air quality was required for the three identified pollutants of concern. Informed by the results of monitoring/modelling it was concluded that it was not necessary to declare any AQMA for the district council.
Progress Report 2005	This report concluded that no exceedances of the air quality objectives were identified at relevant receptors.
Updating and Screening Assessment 2006	The updating and screening assessment was undertaken in accordance with the LAQM TG (03). The report concluded that due to a major road development there may be likelihood of exceedance of objectives for nitrogen dioxide and particulates from road sources. Monitoring for nitrogen dioxide was initiated.
Progress Report 2007	The monitoring for the nitrogen dioxide continued for the period of this report. This report concluded that there were no exceedances of the air quality objectives for the remaining pollutant objective levels.
Progress Report 2008	This report concluded that no exceedances of the air quality objectives were identified at relevant receptors. Ongoing monitoring of nitrogen dioxide generated from road traffic.
Updating and Screening Assessment 2009	The USA was prepared in accordance with updated guidance contained within LAQM.TG(09). Informed by the completion of a monitoring/modelling programme for pollutants associated with road traffic, it was concluded that there was no need to proceed to a detailed assessment for any pollutants of concern.
Progress Report 2010	This report concluded that no exceedances of the air quality objectives were identified at relevant receptors.
Progress Report 2011	This report concluded that no exceedances of the air quality objectives were identified at relevant receptors.
Updating and Screening Assessment 2012	This report concluded that no exceedances of the air quality objectives were identified at relevant receptors.

2 New Monitoring Data

2.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken

2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

There are no automatic monitoring sites in the Omagh District Council area.

2.1.2 Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

There are no non-automatic monitoring sites in the Omagh District Council area.

3 New Local Developments

3.1 Road Traffic Sources

Integral to the development of the Omagh Area Hospital is the creation of a link road between Crevenagh and Donaghanie Roads (Planning Reference K/2009/0007/F). This link road has been subject of an air quality impact assessment, the outcome of which has concluded air quality pollutants would not exceed the relevant limit values contained within the National Air Quality Strategy. This link road opened in December 2013.

3.2 Other Transport Sources

Omagh District Council has not identified any other transport sources.

3.3 Industrial Sources

- i. Planning application K/2013/0072/F outlines the extension of activities of an existing mine to facilitate exploratory/survey works. The planning application was supported with additional environmental information including an air quality assessment. The conclusions of the assessment has recommended a number of mitigation measures to be employed which will form the subject of planning conditions for this proposal.
- ii. Planning application K/2012/0373/F outlines the intention to substitute surface mining with underground mining activities at an existing mineral extraction site. The planning application was accompanied with additional air quality information which has reported that the results of current air quality monitoring around the site meets industry guidelines for fugitive sources. The report also advises that the application proposes to move extraction activities underground and alterations to work practices which will reduce further the potential for off-site emissions.

- iii. Planning application K/2012/0260/F outlines the development of a new enhanced local hospital on lands to the east of Omagh town. Air quality assessment has been included in the planning application documentation for both traffic and combustion sources the results of which conclude that air quality strategy objectives for the pollutants of concern can be met at the closest receptors.

3.4 Commercial and Domestic Sources

There are no new significant commercial/domestic sources identified since the last air quality review.

3.5 New Developments with Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources

There are no new significant fugitive sources identified since the last air quality review.

4 Local / Regional Air Quality Strategy

Northern Ireland development Plans are prepared by Planning Service. The context for these plans is found in the Department's Planning Policy Statements and the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025. Currently there is no regional planning policy dealing exclusively with the control of air pollution. In addition, responsibility for preparation of development plans and the determination of planning decisions in Northern Ireland was is due to transfer to district councils in April 2015 as part of the Review of Public Administration. Local/Regional air quality will be a matter for the new administrations to consider both individually and on a provincial basis.

5 Planning Applications

Planning application K/2011/0736/O proposes a shared educational campus has been approved at outline stage. The application indicates that a number of schools presently situated on separate sites in Omagh will be located centrally at this site. An air quality assessment of the likely impacts has been undertaken. Following consideration of the relevant published baseline air quality data, reference to appropriate atmosphere air dispersion modelling and conservative predicted traffic flows it has been concluded that the proposed development will not exceed the relevant air quality limits values as outlined in the Air Quality Standards regulations and not result in a significant impact to local air quality. The first phase of development is due to commence imminently.

Planning application K/2011/0272/F proposes the development of a major retail foodstore with associated petrol filling station and car parking within Omagh town centre. An air quality impact assessment has been undertaken with reference to Regional and European air quality assessment standards, appropriate assessment criteria, conservative use of monitored data and relevant traffic data. The outcome of this assessment has concluded that air quality impacts from the pollutants of concern for the proposal are not significant. To date this development has not progressed beyond initial site preparation works.

6 Climate Change Strategies

Omagh District Council recognises that Climate Change is likely to be one of the key drivers of change within our community this century.

The Council has strategies that highlight the need for action on climate change, the environment and sustainability; these are:

- Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan 2011 – 2015
This was adopted by Council in July 2011 as a policy document to inform business and work plans. The document largely mirrors the Sustainable Development Strategy of the OFMDFM, published 2010.
- A new procurement policy incorporating the environmental, social and economic strands of Sustainable Development is being developed for all council departments.
- An Environmental Management System (Office Charter) has been implemented for all council departments.
- Ongoing participation in the ARENA Network NI-Benchmarking 2012 Survey.
- Omagh District Council and CIEH(NI) have jointly carried out the first LCLIP (Local Climate Impacts Profile) in Northern Ireland. This report has been completed and its recommendations implemented where appropriate within the Omagh Integrated Emergency Management Plan (December 2013).

7 Conclusions and Proposed Actions

7.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

There has been no new monitoring data since the last Updating and Screening Assessment.

7.2 Conclusions relating to New Local Developments

Omagh Council has considered the potential air quality impacts of a number of proposed developments and has concluded that there are no new significant sources requiring further detailed assessment.

7.3 Proposed Actions

Omagh District Council will submit an Air Quality Progress Report in 2014.

8 References

- Defra (2009) Local Air Quality Management, Technical Guidance LAQM.TG (09)
- Omagh District Council Progress Report 2011
- Omagh District Council Updating and Screening Assessment 2012