



2016 Air Quality Progress Report For Fermanagh District Council

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

December 2016

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

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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 the Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(16).

This progress report determines that there has been no significant changes to sources of air pollution in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area since the last Updating and Screening Assessment Report and concludes that the relevant air quality objectives are being met for the prescribed pollutants.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Description of Local Authority Area.....	1
1.2 Purpose of Progress Report	1
1.3 Air Quality Objectives	2
1.4 Summary of Previous Review and Assessments.....	4
2 New Monitoring Data	6
2.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken	6
3 New Local Developments	7
3.1 Road Traffic Sources	7
3.2 Other Transport Sources	7
3.3 Industrial Sources	7
3.4 Commercial and Domestic Sources.....	7
3.5 New Developments with Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources	8
4 Local / Regional Air Quality Strategy	9
5 Planning Applications	10
6 Climate Change Strategies.....	11
7 Conclusions and Proposed Actions.....	12
7.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data.....	12
7.2 Conclusions relating to New Local Developments.....	12
7.3 Proposed Actions.....	12
8 References	13

1 Introduction

1.1 Description of Local Authority Area

This Progress Report is provided for the new Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area. The council occupies a total area of approximately 3,000 sq. km making it the largest council in terms of land mass equating to around twenty percent of Northern Ireland. The district has a border with four councils in the Republic of Ireland namely Donegal, Leitrim, Cavan and Monaghan. It is located in the most westerly part of the province with much of the land rural in nature and includes the large water body of Lower and Upper Lough Erne. It has a population of approximately 115,000 which is the smallest of the eleven councils resulting in the lowest population density.

There are two main centres within the district, Omagh to the North East with a population of 19,659 and Enniskillen with a population of 13,823 to the west. The district has a number of satellite villages and a dispersed settlement pattern typical of rural Northern Ireland. More detailed information for the district council area is available on the website www.fermanaghomagh.com.

The area has a large agricultural business sector and a broad mix of service industries including fabrication, quarrying, timber and cement product manufacture and a range of businesses supporting tourism and hospitality.

1.2 Purpose of Progress Report

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) 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.

For Local Authorities in Northern Ireland, 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 LAQM process.

They are not intended to be as detailed as Updating and Screening Assessment Reports, or to require as much effort. However, if the Progress Report identifies the risk of exceedence of an Air Quality Objective, the Local Authority (LA) should undertake a Detailed Assessment immediately, and not wait until the next round of Review and Assessment.

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 1.1 – 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 µg/m ³	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
	3.25 µg/m ³	Running annual mean	31.12.2010
1,3-butadiene	2.25 µg/m ³	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon monoxide	10 mg/m ³	Running 8-hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.50 µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2004
	0.25 µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2008
Nitrogen dioxide	200 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005
	40 µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2005
Particulate matter (PM ₁₀) (gravimetric)	50 µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	40 µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide	350 µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004
	125 µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	266 µg/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

The following table outlines the conclusions of the previous review and assessments prepared for the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area.

Table 1.2 Previous Air Quality Reports for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area

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 & 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 on the periphery of Omagh Town 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 nitrogen dioxide in Omagh 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 in Omagh generated from road traffic.
Updating & 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

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

	objectives were identified at relevant receptors.
Updating & Screening Assessment 2012	This report concluded that no exceedances of the air quality objectives were identified at relevant receptors.
Progress Report 2013	This report concluded that no exceedances of the air quality objectives were identified at relevant receptors.
Progress Report 2014	This report concluded that no exceedances of the air quality objectives were identified at relevant receptors.
Updating & Screening Assessment 2015	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

Automatic Monitoring Sites

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

Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

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

3 New Local Developments

3.1 Road Traffic Sources

Environmental Health Service has liaised with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Planning team and been advised that the proposed Strathroy Link Road identified in the Updating and Screening Assessment 2015 has not progressed to development at the time of preparing this report. Similarly the proposed by-pass to Enniskillen town centre is still in the early stages of planning and again has not progressed to development. The Environmental Health Service will have opportunity to review potential air quality impact arising from both proposals as part of the development process.

3.2 Other Transport Sources

No other transport sources have been identified in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area.

3.3 Industrial Sources

The Environmental Health Service is a consultee to a large scale piped gas infrastructure project planned for the west of the province. LA08/2016/1328/F outlines the details of this proposal which has included an air quality impact assessment. The air quality assessment concludes that there will be no significant impact to local air quality subject to appropriate mitigation during the construction phase.

3.4 Commercial and Domestic Sources

There have been three commercial scale biomass boilers proposed for the district; LA10/2016/0187/F, LA10/2016/0912/F and LA10/2016/0607/F. The former two applications represent an expansion of an existing plant utilising 8 No. biomass units consisting of 2no 999kw boilers and 6 no 99kw boilers. These applications have been assessed for potential air quality impacts using the Biomass and Air Quality

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Guidance for Local Authorities issued by EPUK and LACORS which indicates that no further assessment is required. It is also noted that the site occupies a rural location with no other identified major sources of air quality emissions.

The latter application represents the installation of a single commercial biomass boiler with thermal capacity of 100kw. Similarly the potential for air quality impacts have been reviewed by making reference to the above screening tool concluding that no further assessment is required. Planning approvals for the applications were based upon the boiler stack heights as provided on the accompanying approved drawings.

3.5 New Developments with Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources

No new or previously unidentified local developments have been identified which may impact on air quality in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area.

4 Local / Regional Air Quality Strategy

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Planning Department deal with all local planning applications with the exception of a small number of regionally significant projects which are administered by Planning Service Headquarters. Consultations are routinely passed to Environmental Health Service for comment with air quality impacts being reviewed as a material planning consideration.

5 Planning Applications

At the time of writing this report Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is preparing a preferred options paper for the council's overall Development Plan. Air quality impacts will form part of this consultation process. Planning applications deal with potential air quality matters on a case by case basis with applicants being encouraged to 'front load' any applications with all relevant information.

6 Climate Change Strategies

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19 sets out the Council's strategic aims, priorities and values. Within the Corporate Plan, the Council has identified a commitment to sustainable development and will ensure that this is embedded in all plans, policies and actions.

By working in accordance with our Sustainable Development Action Plan 2016/17, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will:

- Consider sustainability in all its actions and decisions.
- Progressively integrate sustainability principles into its daily activities
- Seek to increase awareness of sustainable development generally
- Ensure that where possible council's activities support the achievement of sustainable development
- Strive to act as an exemplar for sustainable development

In achieving compliance with the Sustainable Development Strategy it is considered that this will have a positive impact on climate change for the district.

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

Fermanagh and 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

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council conclude that there is no requirement to declare an Air Quality Management Area for the district. A Progress Report will be submitted in 2017.

8 References

- Defra (2016) Local Air Quality Management, Technical Guidance LAQM.TG (16)
- Biomass and Air Quality Guidance for Local Authorities LACORS/EPUK (2009)
- Omagh District Council Progress Report 2011
- Omagh District Council Updating and Screening Assessment 2012
- Omagh District Council Progress Report 2013
- Omagh District Council Progress Report 2014
- Fermanagh District Council Progress Report 2011
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- Fermanagh District Council Progress Report 2014
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