



Omagh District Council

2012 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment for Omagh District Council

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

January 2013

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| Local Authority Officer | David Gillis Senior EHO |
| | |
| Department | Environmental Health Department |
| Address | Lisnamallard House Old Mountfield Road Omagh BT79 7EG |
| Telephone | 028 82256202 |
| e-mail | david.gillis@omagh.gov.uk |
| | |
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Executive Summary

The Environment (NI) Order 2002, places a duty on local authorities to review and assess the air quality in their council areas. The Local Air Quality Management regime provides the framework for each district council to review and assess a range of air pollutants against objectives set out in the Air Quality Strategy for Northern Ireland. This report is provided to ensure that local air quality is reviewed annually in accordance with the principles prescribed under Local Air Quality Management regulations and technical guidance LAQM.TG(09).

This document addresses the present and future pollution climate with regard to the pollutants currently detailed within the Air Quality Strategy. Previous annual reviews concluded that there was no likelihood of exceedance of the air quality strategy objective levels for each pollutant. The current Update and Screening Assessment for the Omagh District Council area confirms that no significant changes have occurred to alter these findings and concludes there is no requirement for a detailed assessment for any of the pollutants concerned.

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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 51,356. Omagh District Council is located some 70 miles from Belfast City Council and 34 miles from Derry City Council. Information on Omagh District Council maybe obtained on the website www.omagh.gov.uk

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 if 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 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.

The objective of this Updating and Screening Assessment is to identify any matters that have changed which may lead to risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. A checklist approach and screening tools are used to identify significant new sources or changes and whether there is a need for a Detailed Assessment. The USA report should provide an update of any outstanding information requested previously in Review and Assessment reports.

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 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | Running annual mean | 31.12.2003 |
| | 3.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | Running annual mean | 31.12.2010 |
| 1,3-Butadiene | 2.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | Running annual mean | 31.12.2003 |
| Carbon monoxide | 10.0 mg/m^3 | Running 8-hour mean | 31.12.2003 |
| Lead | 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | 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 |
| Particles (PM₁₀) (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

| | |
|---|---|
| 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. |

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 Road Traffic Sources

Planning approval has been granted for two large scale retail units located within Omagh Town Centre. An air quality assessment has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Statement and has demonstrated to comply with the Air Quality Standards Regulations objectives. The relevant planning references are K/2010/0261/O and K/2011/0272.

3.1 Narrow Congested Streets with Residential Properties Close to the Kerb

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no new/newly identified congested streets with a flow above 5,000 vehicles per day and residential properties close to the kerb, that have not been adequately considered in previous rounds of Review and Assessment.

3.2 Busy Streets Where People May Spend 1-hour or More Close to Traffic

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no new/newly identified busy streets where people may spend 1 hour or more close to traffic.

3.3 Roads with a High Flow of Buses and/or HGVs.

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no new/newly identified roads with high flows of buses/HGVs.

3.4 Junctions

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no new/newly identified busy junctions/busy roads.

3.5 New Roads Constructed or Proposed Since the Last Round of Review and Assessment

The A5 Western Transport Corridor outlines the development of a major trunk road within the Omagh District Council area. Since the preparation of the 2011 Progress Report, the proposal has been the subject of a Public Inquiry, the outcome of which has found in favour of the Department for Rural Development progressing with the scheme.

However a legal challenge has been taken against this decision and at the time of collating this report, the status of the proposal is as yet undetermined.

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no new/proposed roads.

3.6 Roads with Significantly Changed Traffic Flows

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no new/newly identified roads with significantly changed traffic flows.

3.7 Bus and Coach Stations

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no relevant bus stations in the Local Authority area.

4 Other Transport Sources

4.1 Airports

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no airports in the Local Authority area.

4.2 Railways (Diesel and Steam Trains)

4.2.1 Stationary Trains

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no locations where diesel or steam trains are regularly stationary for periods of 15 minutes or more, with potential for relevant exposure within 15m.

4.2.2 Moving Trains

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no locations with a large number of movements of diesel locomotives, and potential long-term relevant exposure within 30m.

4.3 Ports (Shipping)

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no ports or shipping that meet the specified criteria within the Local Authority area.

5 Industrial Sources

5.1 Industrial Installations

A crematorium has been approved for Omagh District Council (K/2011/0744/O) on lands adjacent to a burial ground. The application was supported by an air quality assessment which demonstrated compliance with the Air quality Strategy and concluded the proposal can operate to the requirements of the relevant Pollution Prevention and Control guidance notes.

5.1.1 New or Proposed Installations for which an Air Quality Assessment has been Carried Out

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no new or proposed industrial installations for which planning approval has been granted within its area or nearby in a neighbouring authority.

5.1.2 Existing Installations where Emissions have Increased Substantially or New Relevant Exposure has been Introduced

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no industrial installations with substantially increased emissions or new relevant exposure in their vicinity within its area or nearby in a neighbouring authority.

5.1.3 New or Significantly Changed Installations with No Previous Air Quality Assessment

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no new or proposed industrial installations for which planning approval has been granted within its area or nearby in a neighbouring authority.

5.2 Major Fuel (Petrol) Storage Depots

There are no major fuel (petrol) storage depots within the Local Authority area.

5.3 Petrol Stations

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no petrol stations meeting the specified criteria.

5.4 Poultry Farms

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no poultry farms meeting the specified criteria.

6 Commercial and Domestic Sources

6.1 Biomass Combustion – Individual Installations

There is no new approved biomass combustion plant in the Omagh District Council area since the previous report which identified relevant boilers at Omagh Leisure Centre and Omagh College. The department is aware that there is a proposed biomass combustion plant in the council area, but it is currently in the planning process and not yet determined.

6.2 Biomass Combustion – Combined Impacts

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no biomass combustion plant in the Local Authority area.

6.3 Domestic Solid-Fuel Burning

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no areas of significant domestic fuel use in the Local Authority area.

7 Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources

Omagh District Council confirms that there are no potential sources of fugitive particulate matter emissions in the Local Authority area.

8 Conclusions and Proposed Actions

8.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

No further monitoring has been undertaken since the previous review and assessment report.

8.2 Conclusions from Assessment of Sources

Omagh District Council has found no new or significantly changed sources not previously assessed likely to cause exceedance of the air quality objectives.

8.3 Proposed Actions

The Updating and Screening Assessment has not identified the need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant. No additional monitoring is required at this time and so the next step for Omagh District Council will be to submit a Progress Report in 2013.

9 References

1. DEFRA (2009)-Part IV of the Environment Act 1995/Environment Order (NI) 2002 Part III Local Air Quality Management, Technical Guidance LAQM.TG (09)
2. Omagh District Council-Updating and Screening Assessment 2009

