



2017 Air Quality Progress Report For Fermanagh District Council

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

December 2017

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Local Authority Officer	David Gillis
Department	Environmental Health Department
Address	Lisnamallard House Old Mountfield Road Omagh BT79 7EG
Telephone	0300 303 1777
E-mail	eh@fermanaghomagh.com
	PR/FODC/2017
Report Reference number	December 2017
Date	Environmental Health Department

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 Progress 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 Local Transport Plans and Strategies	11
7 Climate Change Strategies.....	12
8 Conclusions and Proposed Actions.....	13
8.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data.....	13
8.2 Conclusions relating to New Local Developments.....	13
8.3 Proposed Actions.....	13
9 References	14

List of Tables

Table 1.1 – Air Quality Objectives included in Regulations for the purpose of LAQM in Northern Ireland

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

1 Introduction

1.1 Description of Local Authority Area

This Progress Report is provided for 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 20,115 and Enniskillen with a population of 13,563 to the west (NISRA population estimate 2016). 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

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

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 objectives were identified at relevant receptors.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

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.
Progress Report 2016	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 Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area.

2.1.2 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

K/2011/0258/F- A proposed link road to connect two arterial routes to the north of Omagh Town Centre has commenced. The potential air quality impact presented by this development has been subject to assessment by virtue of the planning process. The DMRB Assessment has indicated a slight increase in levels of certain pollutants at closest receptors but all well below the air quality objective levels.

The proposed by-pass to Enniskillen town centre remains in the early stages of planning and has not progressed to development. The Environmental Health Service has been in contact with the developer highlighting the need to include an Air Quality Impact Assessment as part of the ongoing 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

LA08/2016/1328/F- The regionally significant development of a piped gas infrastructure to the west of the province has commenced. Works are currently ongoing within the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area. The project has been subject to an Air Quality Review and works are being undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of the air quality report to minimise impact.

3.4 Commercial and Domestic Sources

LA10/2016/0690/F – Planning approval has been granted for the development of a new educational college within Enniskillen Town Centre. The proposal has been

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

supported by an air quality assessment which has concluded that there are no exceedances predicted of the air quality objective levels for the pollutants of concern.

K/2011/0736/O – An Integrated Educational Campus is currently being developed within Omagh Town Centre. This large scale project brings together a number of schools to a central site has been subject to a comprehensive air quality impact assessment. The outcome of the assessment has indicated that air quality objectives will not be exceeded.

LA10/2015/0695/F- There has been one commercial scale biomass development proposed for the district. The application proposes a wood chip drying facility using three biomass boilers each rated at 99kw. The application has been assessed for potential air quality impacts using the Biomass and Air Quality Guidance for Local Authorities issued by EPUK and LACORS which indicates that no further assessment is required.

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 is currently preparing the Local Development Plan 2030. This document is currently being prepared with an anticipated final report due in early 2018. The document focuses on social, economic and environmental impacts presented by future development of the district which includes the consideration of potential air quality matters.

5 Planning Applications

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 the Strategic Planning Division within the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). Consultations are routinely passed to Environmental Health Service for comment with air quality impacts being reviewed as a material planning consideration. 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 Local Transport Plans and Strategies

In Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, sustainable development is considered to be a high priority, cutting across all themes of service delivery. As part of the implementation of its Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council introduced a fleet of 'green' vans within its vehicle pool. This initiative formed part of the 'E-car' Project, a UK wide scheme funded by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles. Three all electric vehicles were purchased under the terms of the scheme and it has been calculated that there is a reduction of 22.8 tonnes of CO₂ released over a four year operating period. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council has been rewarded for this project at the annual Sustainable Ireland Awards.

7 Climate Change Strategies

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Community Plan 'Fermanagh and Omagh 2030' sets out the overarching long-term strategy for the area. Within the Community Plan, the Council has identified a series of strategic themes and outcomes which aim to improve the quality of life through enhanced social, economic and environmental wellbeing and contribute to sustainable development.

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.

8 Conclusions and Proposed Actions

8.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

There has been no new monitoring data since the last Progress Report 2016.

8.2 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.

8.3 Proposed Actions

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council conclude that there is no requirement to declare an Air Quality Management Area for the district. An Updating and Screening Assessment will be submitted in 2018.

9 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
- Fermanagh District Council Updating and Screening Assessment 2012
- Fermanagh District Council Progress Report 2013
- Fermanagh District Council Progress Report 2014
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Updating and Screening Assessment 2015
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Progress Report 2016.

