Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

2026 Air Quality Progress Report

In fulfilment of Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

Local Air Quality Management

June 2026

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Executive Summary

This Progress Report presents the findings of the 2025 Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) review undertaken by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in accordance with the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 and associated technical guidance. The report reviews current air quality monitoring data, assesses compliance with national Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives, and considers whether any new local developments are likely to affect air quality within the Borough.

Monitoring undertaken during 2025 demonstrates that air quality across the Borough continues to meet all relevant Air Quality Strategy objectives. Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) concentrations at both the automatic monitoring station and diffusion tube locations remained well below the annual mean objective of 40 µg/m³, with no exceedances of the hourly objective recorded. Long-term monitoring indicates a continuing downward trend in NO_2 concentrations within the Dungiven Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), reflecting the sustained improvement in air quality following the opening of the A6 Dungiven Bypass.

During 2025, the Council expanded its monitoring programme through the installation of continuous PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring equipment at the Dungiven AQMA. Although monitoring commenced in May 2025, annualised results demonstrate compliance with the relevant air quality objectives. The annualised PM_{10} concentration was 12.6 µg/m³, with no exceedances of the daily objective recorded, while the annualised $PM_{2.5}$ concentration was 7.6 µg/m³, significantly below the UK annual mean objective of 20 µg/m³. These results establish an important baseline for future trend analysis.

A review of local developments, including road traffic, industrial processes, commercial and domestic sources, planning applications, and other potential emission sources, identified no significant changes likely to adversely affect local air quality. Air Quality Impact Assessments submitted in support of relevant planning applications concluded that proposed developments would not result in unacceptable impacts on ambient air quality.

Based on the monitoring data and assessment of local developments, the Council has concluded that there is no requirement to undertake a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant at this time. The existing Dungiven AQMA remains under review, with pollutant concentrations continuing to comply with the relevant air quality objectives. Routine monitoring will continue to ensure that air quality remains compliant and to support future reviews under the LAQM regime.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Description of District Council Area

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is located along the North and East coasts of Northern Ireland and encompasses the former Councils of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle. From the 2021 Northern Ireland Census data, it has a population of just over 141,746 residents (NISRA, 2022).

The land area is approximately 2000km^2.

The council area is a mix of market towns, commercial, small industrial hubs, and open countryside.

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. It should be noted that the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 will no longer apply to Northern Ireland following the publishment of the 'Northern Ireland Clean Air Strategy'. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities and district councils 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 exceedances 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 Northern Ireland district councils, 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 exceedance 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 micrograms per cubic metre μg/m^3 (milligrammes per cubic metre, mg/m^3 for carbon monoxide) with the number of exceedances in each year that are permitted (where applicable).

Table 1.1.1 – 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

Desktop assessments were carried out within legacy Councils (Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle) to determine if the defined air quality pollutant levels were likely to exceed the National Air Quality Objective levels as set out within the Air Quality Regulations (NI) 2003.

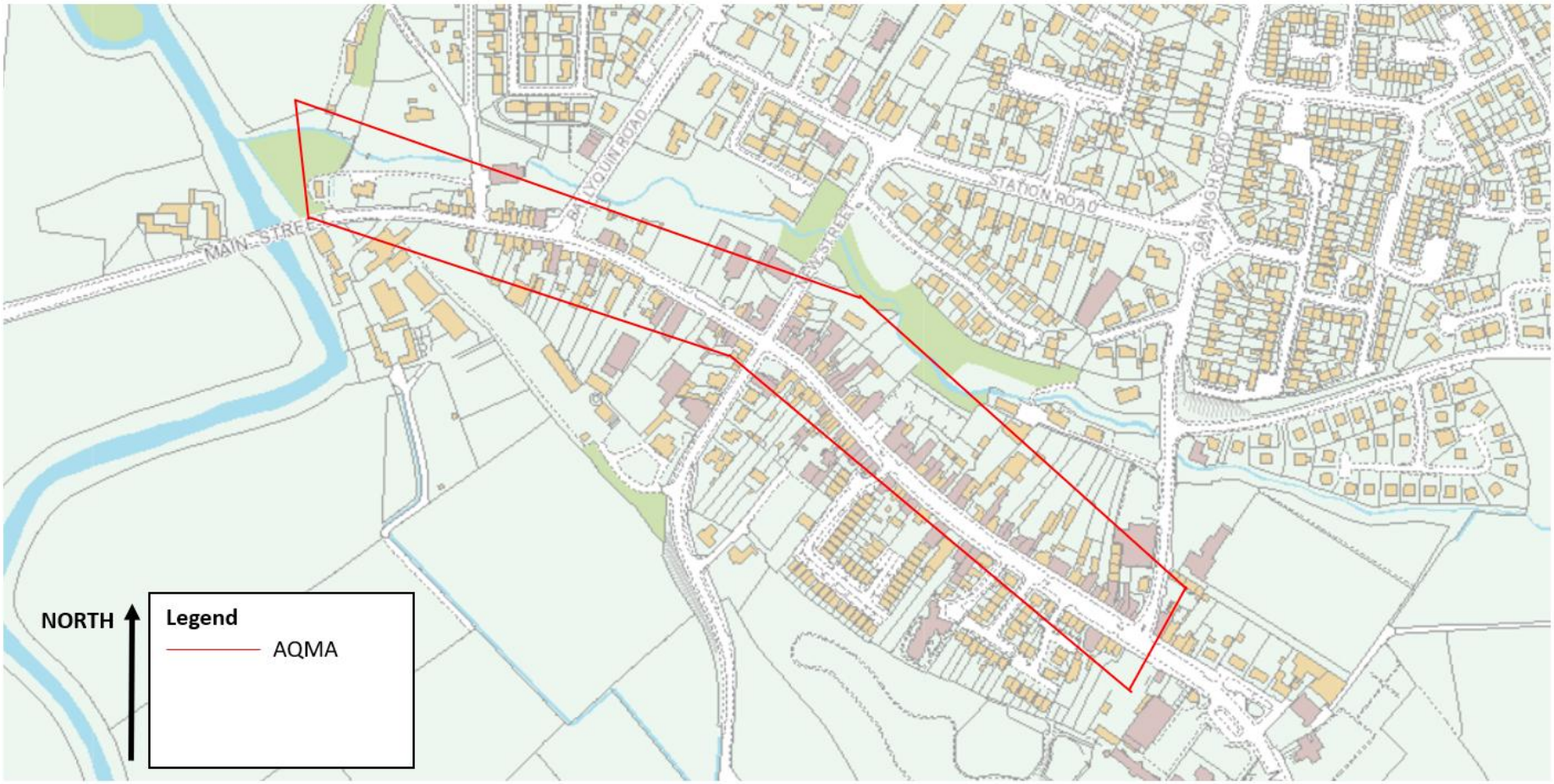
Of particular interest for these Councils were nitrogen dioxide from traffic emissions, particulate matter (PM_{10}) and sulphur dioxide. Particulate matter and sulphur dioxide emissions are associated with industrial processes and the burning of fossil fuels. Following on from these desktop assessments further analysis of pollutants was carried out. Fuel use surveys, DMRB (design manual for roads and bridges) assessments and passive monitoring (nitrogen dioxide for road traffic emissions) were carried out to assess levels.

In terms of the legacy Councils, Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) were declared:

- Legacy Limavady Borough Council - Main Street Dungiven for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), road traffic pollutant emission source.
- Legacy Ballymoney Borough Council - Glebeside, Ballymoney for particulates (PM_{10}), domestic fossil fuel emission source. (The Glebeside AQMA was undeclared as houses in this estate had been converted over to gas).

The AQMA within Dungiven is the only one remaining in place.

Figure 1.1.1 – Map(s) of AQMA Boundaries



2 New Monitoring Data

2.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken

2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has a continuous NO_2 monitor within the AQMA in Dungiven. It has been operational since 2010. The continuous NO_2 monitor was replaced in May 2025 with a ACOEM Serinus 40 NOx analyser. The monitor is audited and serviced on an annual basis by contractors and the data is ratified. A Palas FIDAS 200 dual channel PM10 + PM2.5 was purchased and installed at the same time and is co-located within the same enclosure.

Figure 2.1.1 – Map(s) of Automatic Monitoring Sites

Table 2.1.1 – Details of Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Inlet Height (m)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA?	Monitoring Technique	Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) (N/A if not applicable)	Does this Location Represent Worst-Case Exposure?
Dungiven AQMA	Main Street	Urban Roadside	268851	409503	2.0	NO_2	Y	Chemiluminescent	Y (1m)	1m	Y
Dungiven AQMA	Main Street	Urban Roadside	268851	409503	2.0	PM2.5 + PM10	Y	Optical light scattering	Y (1m)	1m	Y

2.1.2 Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and nitric oxide (NO) are both oxides of nitrogen and are collectively referred to as nitrogen oxides.

All combustion processes produce nitrogen oxide emissions, largely in the form of nitric oxide, which is then converted to nitrogen dioxide mainly as a result of reactions with ozone in the atmosphere.

Exposure to high concentrations of nitrogen dioxide is reported to sensitize asthmatics to allergens, such as irritant chemicals, house dust mites and pollen.

In urban areas, particularly close to major roads, motor vehicles account for the largest proportion of nitrogen oxide emissions. The contribution of road transport to nitrogen oxide emissions has declined significantly in recent years because of various national policy measures.

Diffusion tubes are a type of passive sampler; they absorb the pollutant to be monitored directly from the surrounding air. Diffusion tubes represent a simple and cost-effective method of monitoring air quality in an area, to give a good general indication of average pollution concentrations. They are particularly useful for assessment against annual mean objectives.

Monitoring sites are chosen to provide data on locations where there is relevant public exposure and where possible, are close to the nearest receptor to the busy road or road junction of interest. The sites are subject to periodic review.

Diffusion tubes are placed out in accordance with and adherence to the DEFRA – Exposure Calendar and Methodology. At the end of the monitoring period the tubes are collected, documentation completed and then sent to the appointed laboratory (Gradko Environmental) to undergo analysis.

On completion of analysis, the results are emailed to the Environmental Protection Team and are recorded for use in the results tabulation for the applicable year.

Results obtained from diffusion tube analysis require correction for possible positive bias (over-read), or negative bias (under-read). The preparation method used was an absorbent of 20% TEA (Triethanolamine) in water. The bias adjustment factor for Gradko and the technique in 2025 is 0.89. This factor is based on 28 studies and is taken from the DEFRA website at: http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/bias-adjustment-factors/national-bias.html.

Passive monitoring in Legacy Council Areas of Coleraine, Moyle and Ballymoney was discontinued in 2019, following the publication of the report entitled “Passive Diffusion Monitoring of NO_2 within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council 2014-2018” (Appendix B).

Figure 2.2 – Map(s) of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

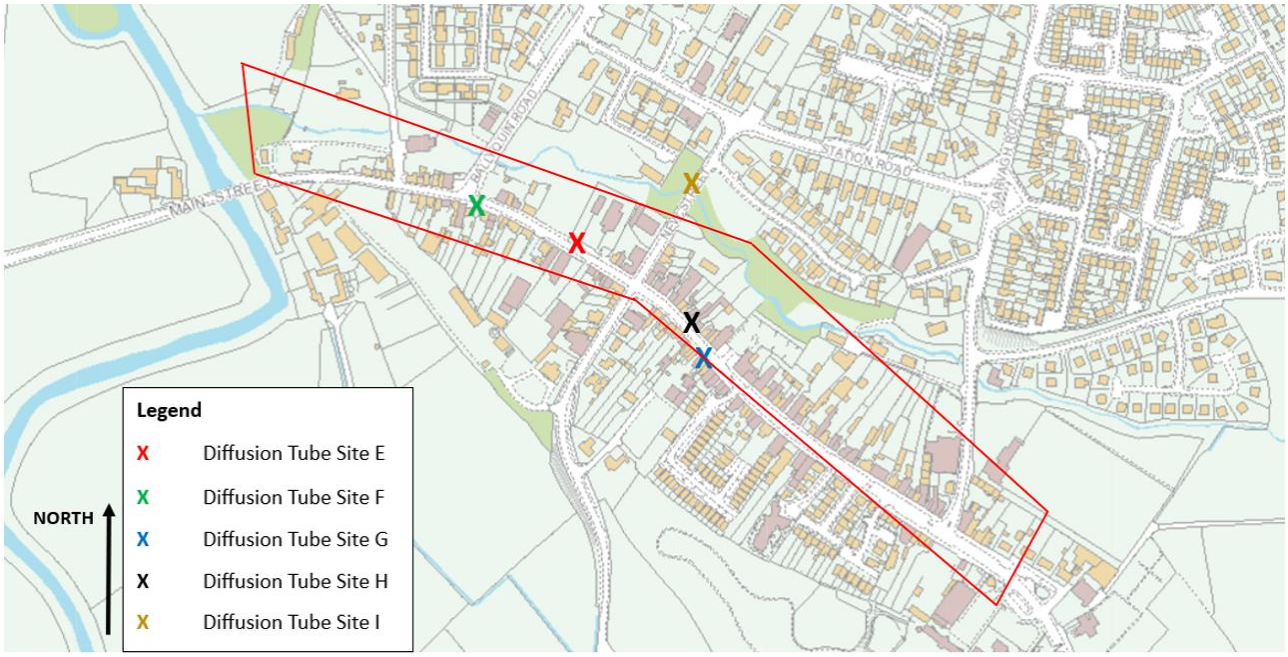


Table 2.2 - Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) (N/A if not applicable)	Is Monitoring Co-located with a Continuous Analyser (Y/N)	Site Height (m)
E	Main Street (AQ Monitor)	Roadside	268851	409503	NO_2	Y	Y (1m)	1	Y	2.5
F	Main Street	Roadside	268742	409543	NO_2	Y	Y (1m)	1	N	2.5
G	Main Street	Roadside	268981	409387	NO_2	Y	Y (1m)	1	N	2.5
H	Main Street	Roadside	269051	409338	NO_2	Y	Y (1m)	1	N	2.5
I	New Street	Roadside	268957	409535	NO_2	Y	Y (1m)	1	N	2.5

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) (N/A if not applicable)	Is Monitoring Co-located with a Continuous Analyser (Y/N)	Site Height (m)
A	Plantation Road	Roadside	262706	422217	NO_2	N	Y (1m)	1	N	2.5
B	Main Street	Roadside	262903	422347	NO_2	N	Y (1m)	1	N	2.5
C	Main Street	Roadside	262774	422364	NO_2	N	Y (1m)	1	N	2.5
D	Glenhead Road	Roadside	262904	422246	NO_2	N	Y (1m)	1	N	2.5

2.2 Comparison of Monitoring Results with Air Quality Objectives

2.2.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)

2.2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring

No unforeseen impacts affecting the operation of the automatic monitoring station were identified during 2025. The continuous analyser achieved an annual data capture of 99%, exceeding the LAQM minimum data capture requirement; therefore, annualisation of the dataset was not required.

The measured annual mean NO_2 concentration at the Dungiven AQMA automatic monitoring station was 17.8 µg/m³, which is well below the Air Quality Strategy (AQS) annual mean objective of 40 µg/m³.

No hourly mean concentrations exceeded 200 µg/m³ during 2025. Consequently, the site complied with both the annual mean and 1-hour mean NO_2 objectives. As data capture exceeded 85%, reporting of the 99.8th percentile concentration was not required.

The automatic monitoring station is located within the Dungiven Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) adjacent to Main Street and is representative of relevant public exposure, with residential properties located within approximately one metre of the monitoring location. As measured concentrations are well below 90% of the annual mean objective, no distance correction or further assessment of nearby receptors was required.

Trend analysis indicates that annual mean NO_2 concentrations have continued to decline over recent years, reducing from 28 µg/m³ in 2021 to 17.8 µg/m³ in 2025. This continuing improvement is considered to reflect reduced traffic congestion following the opening of the A6 Dungiven Bypass in 2023.

Automatic Monitoring Data

Data is presented below for the Nitrogen Dioxide levels within the AQMA for 2025 (Table 4).

Table 2.3 - Monthly Data Captures 2025 (%)

Pollutant – Nitrogen Dioxide											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
99.9	99.3	99.9	99.9	89.7	99.9	100.0	99.7	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0

The NO_2 annual mean was 17.8 µg/m^3 for 2025. The AQS annual mean Objective is 40 µg/m^3 and the target annual data capture is 75%. The NO_2 annual mean and hourly mean objectives (2025) were not exceeded. For 2025 this site achieved 99% data capture, therefore annualisation was not required for this data.

Table 2.4 – Results of Automatic Monitoring for NO2: Comparison with Annual Mean Objective

Site ID	X OS Grid Ref	Y OS Grid Ref	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period % [a]	Valid Data Capture 2025 % [b]	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)				
						2021* [c]	2022* [c]	2023* [c]	2024* [c]	2025 [c]
Dungiven AQMA	268851	409503	Urban Roadside	99	99	28	23	22	16.2	17.8

In bold, exceedance of the NO_2 annual mean AQS objective of 40µg/m^3

[a] i.e. data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year

[b] i.e. data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for six months the maximum data capture for the full calendar year would be 50%)

[c] Means should be "annualised" as in Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 of LAQM.TG22, if valid data capture is less than 75%

* Annual mean concentrations for previous years are optional

Figure 2.3 – Trends in Annual Mean NO2 Concentrations Measured at Automatic Monitoring Sites

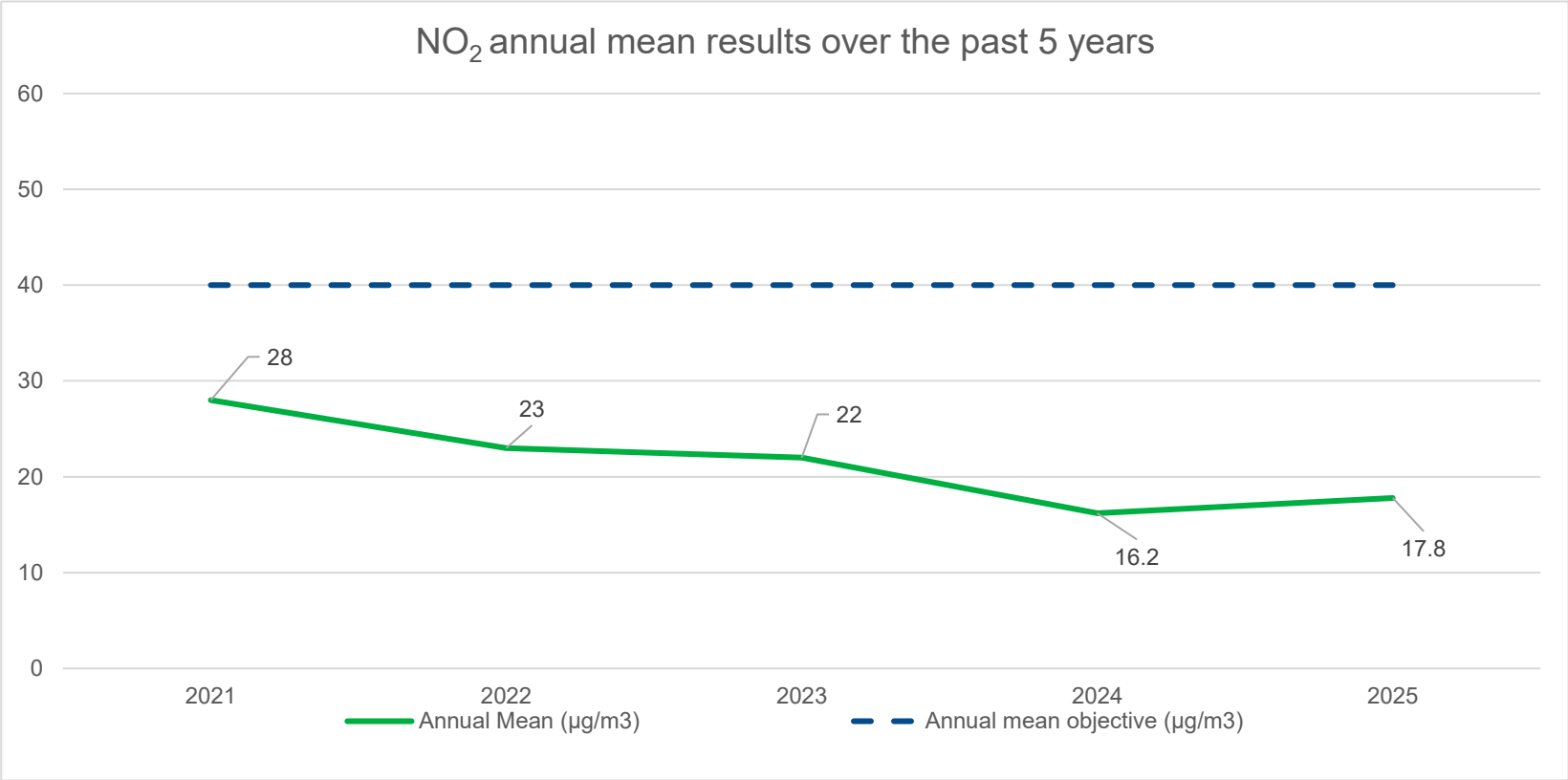


Figure 2.3 demonstrates that there has been an ongoing trend since 2020 of annual mean NO_2 concentrations dropping. It was previously assumed that the figures for years 2020 and 2021 have been influenced by COVID restrictions on travel/unnecessary journeys, however, this trend has continued and with the A6 Bypass opening in 2023, with a general continued downward trend. The year 2024 recorded the lowest levels as traffic congestion will have been greatly reduced due to the bypass.

Table 2.5 – Results of Automatic Monitoring for NO2: Comparison with 1-hour Mean Objective

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period % [a]	Valid Data Capture 2025 % [b]	Number of Hourly Means > 200µg/m^3				
					2021* [c]	2022* [c]	2023* [c]	2024* [c]	2025 [c]
Dungiven AQMA	Urban Roadside	Y	99	99	0	0	0	0	0

In bold, exceedance of the NO_2 hourly mean AQS objective (200µg/m^3 – not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year)

[a] i.e. data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year

[b] i.e. data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for six months the maximum data capture for the full calendar year would be 50%)

[c] If the data capture for full calendar year is less than 85%, include the 99.8th percentile of hourly means in brackets

* Number of exceedances for previous years is optional

2.2.1.2 Diffusion Tube Monitoring

No unforeseen impacts affecting the diffusion tube monitoring programme were identified during 2025. All annual mean concentrations have been bias-adjusted using the 2025 DEFRA national bias adjustment factor of 0.89 for Gradko Environmental (20% TEA in water preparation method).

Monthly diffusion tube results are provided in Table 2.6 of this report.

All diffusion tube monitoring locations recorded annual mean NO_2 concentrations below the annual mean AQS objective of 40 µg/m³, with the highest concentration recorded at Site F (Main Street, Dungiven) of 25.1 µg/m³. No site exceeded 60 µg/m³, indicating there is no risk of exceedance of the 1-hour NO_2 objective.

Although some monthly data were unavailable at a small number of sites, sufficient data were obtained to derive representative annual means in accordance with LAQM.TG22 guidance. No annualisation or distance correction was required. All monitoring locations were selected to represent relevant public exposure, with receptors located within approximately one metre of each monitoring site.

Overall, the diffusion tube results demonstrate continued compliance with both the annual and hourly NO_2 objectives at locations both within and outside the Dungiven AQMA. A clear downward trend in NO_2 concentrations has continued since monitoring recommenced in 2022, with substantial reductions observed at the highest roadside sites (Sites F and H), supporting the improvements identified by the automatic monitoring station.

The monitoring results indicate that no exceedances of the Air Quality Strategy objectives occurred during 2025, and there is no requirement to undertake a Detailed Assessment for nitrogen dioxide.

Table 2.6 – Annual Results Summary

DT ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Mean: Raw Data	Annual Mean: Annualised and Bias Adjusted <(0.89)>	Annual Mean: Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure	Comment
Dungiven E	268851	409503	26.7	23.5	21.4	26	-	21.8	18.9	20.3	19	23	24.1	-	22.47	20	-	
Dungiven F	268742	409543	32.4	31.4	27.3	30.7	27.6	28.8	22.8	21.1	27	-	32.5	-	28.16	25.1	-	
Dungiven G	268981	409387	20.4	17.3	18.1	18.3	14.7	15	13.1	13.4	15	17.4	20.1	-	16.62	14.8	-	
Dungiven H	269051	409338	21.43	23.9	28.4	32.7	26.8	24.7	24.5	24.5	24.7	28.7	31.7	-	26.55	23.6	-	
Dungiven I	268957	409535	16.3	13.3	13	14	10.8	10	9.3	10.7	-	-	13.5	-	12.32	11	-	
Ballykelly A	262706	422217	8	8.7	7.2	6.9	5.3	4	-	4.9	4.4	5	7.6	-	6.2	5.5	-	

Ballykelly B	262903	422347	24.8	30.4	29.6	27.3	23	22.3	19.4	20.22	18.8	21.3	21.7	-	21.71	19.3	-	
Ballykelly C	262774	422364	23.1	22.8	16.8	18.9	13.1	16.7	12.9	14.8	17.4	18.1	17.3	-	15.63	13.9	-	
Ballykelly D	262904	422246	7.6	7.7	6.9	7.3	8.1	5.7	5.2	5.9	5.6	5.6	7	-	6.6	5.9	-	

In bold, exceedance of the NO_2 annual mean AQS objective of 40µg/m^3

Underlined, annual mean > 60µg/m^3, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 hourly mean AQS objective

[a] Means should be “annualised” as in Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 of LAQM.TG22, if full calendar year data capture is less than 75%

[b] If an exceedance is measured at a monitoring site not representative of public exposure, NO_2 concentration at the nearest relevant exposure should be estimated based on the NO_2 fall-off with distance calculator, and results should be discussed in a specific section. The procedure is also explained in paragraphs 7.82 to 7.85 of LAQM.TG22.

Table 2.7 – Results of NO2 Diffusion Tubes (2021 to 2025)

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3) - Adjusted for Bias [a]				
			2021 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.84)	2022 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.84)	2023 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.81)	2024 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.84)	2025 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.89)
Dungiven E	Roadside	Y	Insufficient data	30.3	28.6	19.6	20
Dungiven F	Roadside	Y	Insufficient data	35.2	33.1	21.9	25.1
Dungiven G	Roadside	Y	Insufficient data	25.0	22.7	16.1	14.8
Dungiven H	Roadside	Y	Insufficient data	34.5	35	24.3	23.6
Dungiven I	Roadside	Y	Insufficient data	15.1	15.2	11.34	11
Ballykelly A	Roadside	N	N/A	4.8	7	5.4	5.5
Ballykelly B	Roadside	N	N/A	21.0	25.6	20.8	19.3
Ballykelly C	Roadside	N	N/A	15.6	18.9	14.1	13.9
Ballykelly D	Roadside	N	N/A	5.6	8.8	6.5	5.9

In bold, exceedance of the NO_2 annual mean AQS objective of 40µg/m^3
Underlined, annual mean > 60µg/m^3, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 hourly mean AQS objective
[a] Means should be "annualised" as in Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 of LAQM.TG22, if full calendar year data capture is less than 75%

Figure 2.4 – Trends in Annual Mean Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations Measured at Diffusion Tube Monitoring Sites

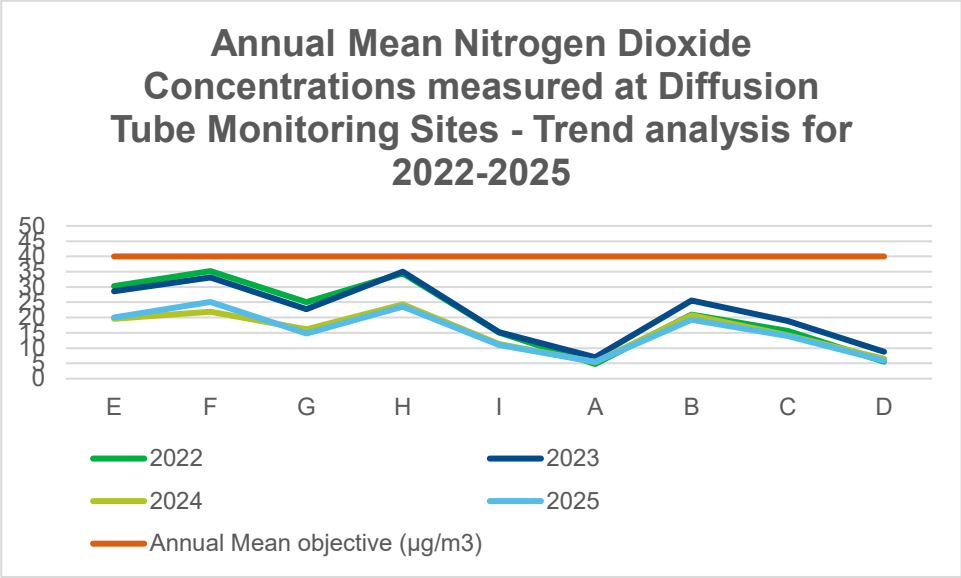


Figure 2.4 shows that annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) concentrations remained well below the annual mean objective of 40 µg/m³ at all monitoring sites between 2022 and 2025.

Overall, there is a clear downward trend in NO_2 concentrations across most monitoring locations over the four-year period. The highest concentrations were consistently recorded at Sites F and H in 2022 and 2023, with annual means of around 35 µg/m³, although these still complied with the objective. By 2024 and 2025, concentrations at these sites had reduced significantly to approximately 22–24 µg/m³.

Sites I, A, C and D recorded some of the lowest concentrations throughout the monitoring period. Site A consistently had the lowest annual mean, decreasing from around 6–7 µg/m³ in 2022–2023 to approximately 5 µg/m³ in 2024–2025.

Most sites experienced reductions between 2022 and 2025, with the exception of Site B, which showed a temporary increase in 2023 before declining again in 2024 and 2025. By 2025, concentrations at Site B had reduced to around 19 µg/m³, compared with 25 µg/m³ in 2023.

The 2025 results indicate the lowest concentrations across nearly all monitoring sites since monitoring began in this dataset, suggesting a continuing improvement in local air quality. No monitoring location exceeded the annual mean objective during the reporting period, indicating ongoing compliance with the Air Quality Standards Regulations.

2.2.2 Particulate Matter (PM_{10})

PM_{10} monitoring at the Dungiven AQMA roadside site commenced in May 2025 following the installation of a FIDAS continuous particulate monitor. As this is the first year of operation, no historical dataset is available for this location.

Data capture for the monitoring period was 99%, indicating excellent instrument performance over the operational period. However, overall data capture for 2025 is 62.9%, reflecting that monitoring commenced partway through the year. To derive an annual mean concentration consistent with LAQM Technical Guidance, the measured dataset was annualised using comparison data from two representative monitoring sites in neighbouring council areas to account for seasonal variation and incomplete temporal coverage.

The resulting annualised PM_{10} concentration for 2025 is 12.6 µg/m³. This is well below the UK Air Quality Strategy annual mean objective of 40 µg/m³ for PM_{10}, indicating compliance at this stage of monitoring.

As this is the first year of monitoring at the site, no trend assessment can yet be undertaken. Continued monitoring over subsequent years will be required to establish a robust long-term dataset and assess any temporal variation in PM_{10} concentrations within the Dungiven AQMA.

In relation to the 24-hour mean objective (50 µg/m³, not to be exceeded more than 35 times per year), no exceedances above this threshold were recorded during the monitoring period. Due to the reduced data capture (<85%), the 90.4th percentile concentration of 17.5 µg/m³ is also reported in accordance with LAQM Technical Guidance (TG22). This value is well below the objective level, indicating a low risk of exceedance.

As this is the first year of monitoring at the site, no temporal trend assessment can be undertaken. Continued monitoring will be required to establish a robust long-term dataset for comparison within the Dungiven AQMA.

Table 2.8 – Results of Automatic Monitoring for PM10: Comparison with Annual Mean Objective

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period % [a]	Valid Data Capture 2025 % [b]	Confirm Gravimetric Equivalent (Y or N/A)	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)				
						2021* [c]	2022* [c]	2023* [c]	2024* [c]	2025 [c]
Dungiven AQMA	Roadside	Y	99	62.9	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.6

In bold, exceedance of the PM_{10} annual mean AQS objective of 40µg/m^3

[a] i.e. data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year

[b] i.e. data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for six months the maximum data capture for the full calendar year would be 50%)

[c] Means should be "annualised" as in Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 of LAQM.TG22, if valid data capture is less than 75%

* Annual mean concentrations for previous years are optional

Figure 2.5 – Trends in Annual Mean PM10 Concentrations

As this is the first year of monitoring at the site, no trend assessment can yet be undertaken. Continued monitoring over subsequent years will be required to establish a robust long-term dataset and assess any temporal variation in PM_{10} concentrations within the Dungiven AQMA.

Table 2.9 – Results of Automatic Monitoring for PM10: Comparison with 24-hour Mean Objective

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period % [a]	Valid Data Capture 2025 % [b]	Confirm Gravimetric Equivalent (Y or N/A)	Number of Daily Means > 50µg/m^3				
						2021* [c]	2022* [c]	2023* [c]	2024* [c]	2025 [c]
Dungiven AQMA	Roadside	Y	62.9	99	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.7 (17.5)

In bold, exceedance of the PM10 daily mean AQS objective (50µg/m3 – not to be exceeded more than 35 times per year)

[a] i.e. data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year

[b] i.e. data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for six months the maximum data capture for the full calendar year would be 50%)

[c] if data capture for full calendar year is less than 85%, include the 90.4th percentile of 24-hour means in brackets

* Number of exceedances for previous years is optional

2.2.3 Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council does not monitor Sulphur Dioxide. Consideration is being given to identifying potential monitoring opportunities to undertake surveys of air quality within the Borough, potentially making use of temporary mobile air quality monitoring station.

2.2.4 Benzene

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council does not monitor Benzene. Consideration is being given to identifying potential monitoring opportunities to undertake surveys of air quality within the Borough, potentially making use of temporary mobile air quality monitoring stations.

2.2.5 Other Pollutants Monitored

Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)

$PM_{2.5}$ monitoring at the Dungiven AQMA roadside site commenced in May 2025 following the installation of a FIDAS continuous particulate monitor. As this is the first year of operation, no historical dataset is available for this location.

Data capture for the monitoring period was 99%, indicating excellent instrument performance over the operational period. However, overall data capture for 2025 is 62.9%, reflecting that monitoring commenced partway through the year. To derive an annual mean concentration consistent with LAQM Technical Guidance, the measured dataset was annualised using comparison data from two representative monitoring sites in neighbouring council areas to account for seasonal variation and incomplete temporal coverage.

$PM_{2.5}$ monitoring was undertaken from May to December 2025, with a measured mean concentration of 6.2 µg/m³. As monitoring did not cover a full calendar year, annualisation was undertaken in accordance with LAQM TG22 guidance.

Annualisation factors were derived using two representative background monitoring sites (Newtownstewart and Belfast, Mid and East Antrim was not used as their data capture was below 85% for the year). Full-year 2025 means at both sites were 8.0 µg/m³, compared with May–December means of 6.25 µg/m³ and 6.75 µg/m³ respectively, resulting in an average annualisation factor of 1.23.

Applying this factor to the measured concentration gives an annualised $PM_{2.5}$ concentration of 7.6 µg/m³, which is well below the UK Air Quality Strategy annual mean objective of 20 µg/m³, indicating compliance.

2.2.6 Summary of Compliance with AQS Objectives

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has examined the results from monitoring in the Borough. Concentrations are all below the objectives, therefore there is no need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment.

3 New Local Developments

The below information has been gathered through planning applications, PPC applications and local knowledge of the Borough. There have been no new local developments in the Borough that may affect air quality

3.1 Road Traffic Sources

There have been no new road schemes within the Borough that would negatively impact upon air quality. No new roads have been opened since the last Updating and Screening Assessment however the construction of a bypass in Dungiven commenced September 2018, and completed April 2023. No busy or narrow congested streets have been identified that have not previously been considered. No roads with significantly changed traffic flows have been identified and there are no roads with high flows of buses and or HGVs. There are no new bus or coach stations.

3.2 Other Transport Sources

In addition to fixed transport infrastructure, consideration has been given to other transport-related sources, including rail services, ports, and seasonal variations in traffic associated with tourism. No increases in activity have been identified that would be likely to result in exceedances of air quality objectives at locations of relevant exposure.

3.3 Industrial Sources

There have been no new industrial installations, major fuel storage depots, or petrol stations since the last Updating and Screening Assessment.

There have been a number of poultry sheds submitted which have required an Air Quality Impact Assessment. The Assessments submitted to date have demonstrated that the proposed developments will not have a significant adverse impact on ambient air quality in the vicinity of the development sites.

3.4 Commercial and Domestic Sources

The following commercial and domestic sources, which may have an impact on ambient air quality, have been considered since the last Updating and Screening Assessment:

- Biomass combustion plant – individual installations.
- Areas where the combined impact of several biomass combustion sources may be relevant.
- Areas where domestic solid fuel burning may be relevant.
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council confirms that the above installations are considered as a part of the council's planning process. Where necessary, an Air Quality Impact Assessment is requested to demonstrate that the development proposal will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on local ambient air quality or on relevant human health receptors.

Further information on planning applications, which have required an Air Quality Impact Assessment, is provided in Section 4 of this report. The Assessments submitted to date have demonstrated that the proposed developments will not have a significant adverse impact on ambient air quality in the vicinity of the development sites.

Accordingly, it is considered that there is no need to proceed to a new Detailed Assessment for commercial and domestic sources.

3.5 New Developments with Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources

The following new developments with fugitive or uncontrolled sources, which may have an impact on air quality, have been considered since the last Updating and Screening Assessment:

- Landfill sites.
- Quarries.
- Unmade haulage roads on industrial sites.
- Waste transfer stations, etc.
- Other potential sources of fugitive particulate matter emissions.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council confirms that as there have been no significant changes to any of the above-mentioned sources or any new sources since the

2024 Updating and Screening Assessment, there is no need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for fugitive or uncontrolled sources.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council confirms that there are no new or newly identified local developments which may have an impact on air quality within the Local Authority area.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council confirms that all the following have been considered:

- **Road traffic sources**
- **Other transport sources**
- **Industrial sources**
- **Commercial and domestic sources**
- **New developments with fugitive or uncontrolled sources.**

4 Local / Regional Air Quality Strategy

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council do not have a local/regional Air Quality Strategy but do have a declared AQMA with an associated Action Plan.

5 Planning Applications

A review of relevant planning applications was undertaken. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is not aware of any approved/pending applications which would adversely impact upon air quality within the Borough. As detailed previously, applications that have the potential to impact on air quality were assessed that they would not have an unacceptable adverse impact on local ambient air quality or on relevant human health receptors.

6 Conclusions and Proposed Actions

6.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

This Progress Report has indicated that aside from the AQMA, no new issues were identified which would require either a detailed or further assessment for any pollutants. As previously stated, due to COVID lockdown and government restrictions passive monitoring did not take place during 2020 and 2021 and recommenced in 2022. Levels of NO_2 within the AQMA in Dungiven (automatic monitoring data) has revealed that there is a trend of decreasing concentrations of nitrogen dioxide below the annual mean objective level of 40µg/m³.

As this is the first year of $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring at the Dungiven AQMA, no trend assessment can yet be undertaken. However, the annualised concentration of 7.6 µg/m³ is substantially below the UK Air Quality Strategy annual mean objective of 20 µg/m³, indicating that the objective was met during 2025. Continued monitoring will be undertaken to establish a robust long-term dataset, assess temporal trends, and support the ongoing review of air quality within the Dungiven AQMA.

Further to Council Report "*Update on Air Quality Monitoring and consideration of additional passive diffusion tube screening*", dated 14th September 2021, the Environmental Protection team instigated monitoring utilising, passive diffusion tubes within Ballykelly to determine Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) levels. This was agreed to be implemented in order to provide up-to-date data concerning pollutant concentrations, in terms of road traffic source (appendix C).

It is also valuable to review and update air quality within the Borough as part of this department's remit under the legislation (Part III of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, the Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 and the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003.

No significant issues have been identified beyond the existing AQMA which require any additional investigation or monitoring. Regarding potential sources, no new issues have been identified since the last Update and Screening Assessment (2024).

6.2 Conclusions relating to New Local Developments

Having assessed the relevant planning applications in the Council district, it was concluded that they would have no significant negative impact on existing local air quality. In addition, no significant changes in local circumstances were identified within the Council district, which would require further assessment. It is therefore not considered necessary to proceed to a 'Detailed Assessment' for any of the new local developments or potential sources.

6.3 Other Conclusions

No significant changes in emissions sources within the Council area have been identified. No new developments have been identified which would significantly impact on air quality at relevant locations.

6.4 Proposed Actions

The new monitoring data has not identified the need to progress to a detailed assessment for any pollutant. The monitoring data has indicated that there are no changes required to the existing AQMA's within the Borough at this stage. Air Quality in the Dungiven AQMA has complied with air quality objectives in 2024.

7 References

I. Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2003/342/contents/made

II. Belfast Telegraph (2015) Traffic rise at Belfast airports as City of Derry falls. Available at: https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/news/traffic-rise-at-belfast-airports-as-city-of-derry-falls-30920265.html

III. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (2018). Passive diffusion monitoring of NO_2 with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council 2014-2018

IV. City of Derry Airport (2022) Facts and Figures. Available at: https://www.cityofderryairport.com/about-us/facts-figures/

V. DAERA Pollution Prevention and Control permitted processes. Available at: https://public-registers.daera-ni.gov.uk/pollution-prevention-control

VI. DEFRA (2008). Diffusion Tubes for Ambient NO_2 Monitoring: Practical Guidance for Laboratories and Users

VII. DEFRA (2016). Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG16)

VIII. DEFRA (2022). Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22)

IX. DEFRA in partnership with the Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE Northern Ireland (2007). The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

X. NISRA. 2021 Census. Available at: https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2021-census

XI. The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2002/3153/contents

XII. Open Data NI (2022). Northern Ireland Traffic Count Data. Available at; https://www.opendatani.gov.uk/dataset/northern-ireland-traffic-count-data

8 Appendices

Appendix A: Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) Data

Appendix B: Cessation of passive diffusion monitoring of NO_2 within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council 2014-2018

Appendix A: QA/QC Data

QA/QC Diffusion Tube Monitoring

Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

Gradko International Ltd, St Martins House, 77 Wales Street, Winchester, Hampshire

20%TEA in water

2025 Bias Adjustment factor = 0.89

QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring

Please find below Gradko Internal Laboratory Methods used for the analysis of air pollution monitoring equipment:

Nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide diffusive air monitors

Analysed by UKAS accredited in-house method GLM 3

Nitrogen dioxide and NOx diffusive air monitors

Analysed by UKAS accredited in-house method GLM 7 and GLM 9

Monitoring was completed in adherence with the 2025 DEFRA Diffusion Tube Monitoring Calendar.

Diffusion Tube Annualisation

All diffusion tube monitoring locations within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council recorded data capture of 75% therefore it was not required to annualise any monitoring data. In addition, any sites with a data capture below 25% do not require annualisation.

Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council have applied a national bias adjustment factor of 0.89 to the 2025 monitoring data. A decision was made to apply the national figure of 0.89 as 28 studies were included in this and therefore deemed to be a more realistic figure.

Table A.1 - Bias Adjustment Factor

Year	Local or National	If National, Version of National Spreadsheet	Adjustment Factor
2025	National	03/26	0.89
2024	National	03/24	0.84
2023	National	03/23	0.84
2022	National	03/22	0.81
2021	National	03/21	0.81

NO_2 Fall-off with Distance from the Road

No diffusion tube NO_2 monitoring locations within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council required distance correction during 2025.

QA/QC of Automatic Monitoring

In 2025 Air Quality Data Management for the Automatic Analyser was carried out by Air Quality Data Management (AQDM). The measured data was ratified using the techniques developed for the AURN and AEA Calibration Club as specified in LAQM TG(22). Bi-annual Quality Control audits were carried out by EMS Systems. Routine calibration of the NOx analyser is undertaken by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council every 4 weeks, using on-site certified calibration gas cylinders traceable to National Calibration Standards. The data capture was 99% in 2025 for NO_2 and 62.9% for $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}, however, for the monitoring period it was 99%.

QA/QC of Automatic Air Quality Instruments

Air quality measurements from the automatic instruments are validated and ratified by Air Quality Data Management (AQDM) http://www.aqdm.co.uk to the standards described in the Local Air Quality Management – Technical Guidance LAQM (TG22) https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/technical-guidance.

Validation

This process operates on data during the data collection stage. All data are continually screened algorithmically and manually for anomalies. There are several techniques designed to discover spurious and unusual measurements within a very large dataset. These anomalies may be due to equipment failure, human error, power failures,

interference or other disturbances. Automatic screening can only safely identify spurious results that need further manual investigation.

Raw data from the gaseous instruments (e.g. NOx, O3, SO2 and CO) are scaled into concentrations using the latest values derived from the manual and automatic calibrations. These instruments are not absolute and suffer drifts. Both the zero baseline (background) and the sensitivity may change over time. Regular calibrations with certified gas standards are used to measure the zero and sensitivity. However, these are only valid for the moment of the calibration since the instrument will continue to drift. Raw measurements from particulate instruments (e.g. PM10 and PM2.5) generally do not require scaling into concentrations. The original raw data are always preserved intact while the processed data are dynamically scaled and edited.

Ratification

This is the process that finalises the data to produce the measurements suitable for reporting. All available information is critically assessed so that the best data scalings are applied and all anomalies are appropriately edited. Generally, this operates at three, six or twelve month intervals. However, unexpected faults can be identified during the instrument routine services or independent audits which are often at 6-monthly intervals. In practice, therefore, the data can only be fully ratified in 12-month or annual periods. The data processing performed during the three and six monthly cycles helps build a reliable dataset that is finalised at the end of the year.

There is a diverse range of additional information that can be essential to the correct understanding and editing of data anomalies. These may include

- the correct scaling of data
- ignoring calibrations that were poor e.g. a spent zero scrubber
- closely tracking rapid drifts or eliminating the data
- comparing the measurements with other pollutants and nearby sites
- corrections due to span cylinder drift
- corrections due to flow drifts for the particulate instruments
- corrections for ozone instrument sensitivity drifts
- eliminating measurements for NO2 conversion inefficiencies
- eliminating periods where calibration gas is in the ambient dataset

- identifying periods were instruments are warming-up after a powercut
- identification of anomalies due to mains power spikes
- correcting problems with the date and time stamp
- observations made during the sites visits and services

The identification of data anomalies, the proper understanding of the effects and the application of appropriate corrections requires expertise gained over many years of operational experience. Instruments and infrastructure can fail in numerous ways that significantly and visually affect the quality of the measurements. There are rarely simple faults that can be discovered by computer algorithms or can be understood without previous experience.

All PM reported concentrations will have appropriate corrections applied. PM10 measurements performed by TEOM 1405 instruments will be corrected by the Volatile Correction Model (VCM) http://www.volatile-correction-model.info. Other PM corrections will be applied as published by Defra

https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/networks/monitoring-methods?view=mcerts-scheme depending on the measurement technique.

All concentrations and statistics reported as “Ratified by AQDM” are ready for the ASR under the LAQM regime. Small negative PM concentrations are valid. Clients and contractors should be careful if the statistics are recalculated from the ratified concentrations using other tools.

Further information about air quality data management, expert data ratification and examples of bad practices are given on the Air

PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ Monitoring Adjustment

The type of PM_{10}/$PM_{2.5}$ monitor(s) utilised within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council do not required the application of a correction factor.

Automatic Monitoring Annualisation

All automatic monitoring locations within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council recorded data capture of greater than 75% therefore it was not required to annualise any

monitoring data. In addition, any sites with a data capture below 25% do not require annualization.

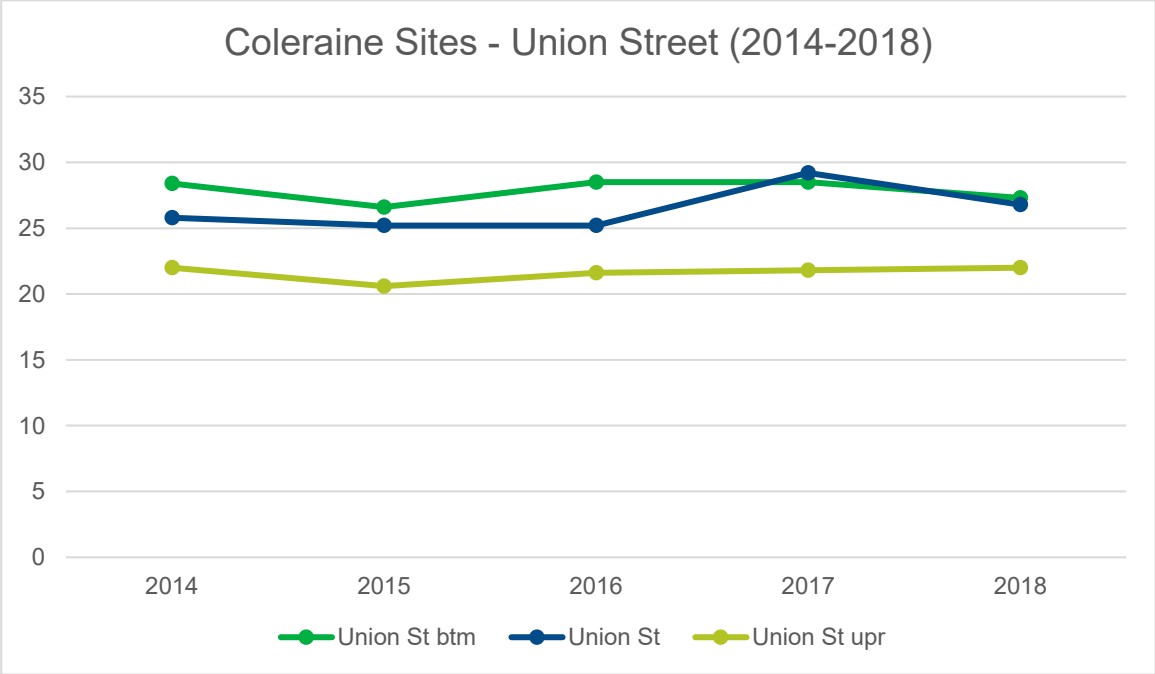
NO_2 Fall-off with Distance from the Road

No automatic NO_2 monitoring locations within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council required distance correction during 2025.

Appendix B: Cessation of passive diffusion monitoring of NO_2 within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council 2014-2018

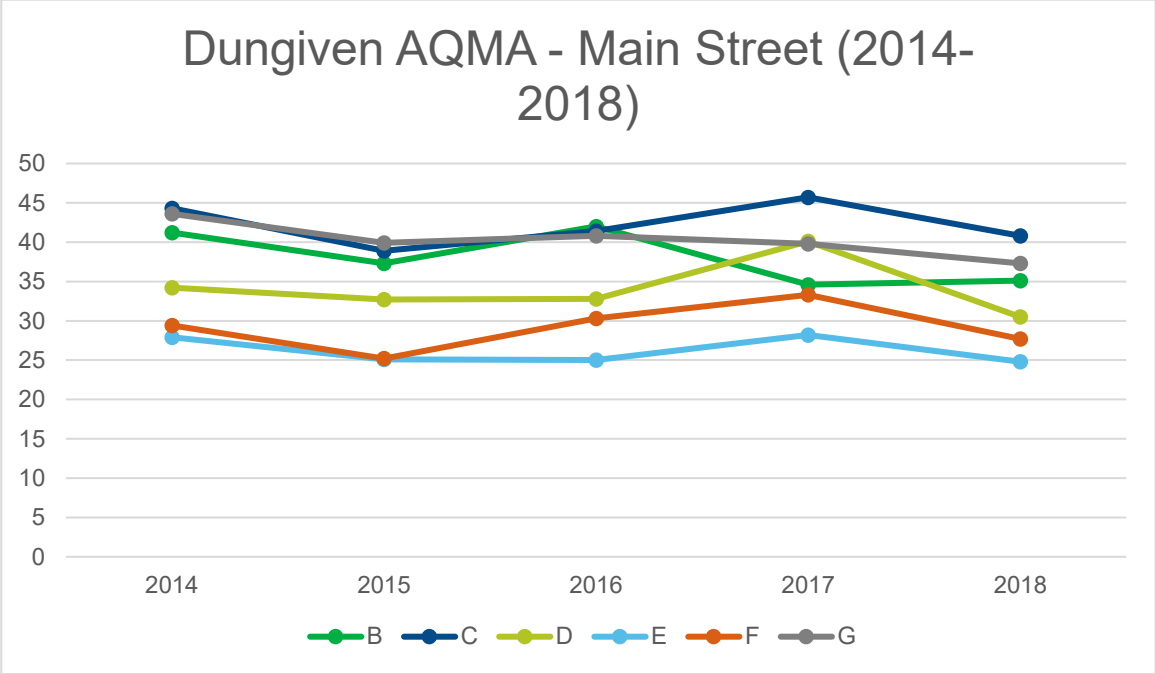
Analysis of passive NO_2 monitoring data throughout the Borough has shown that since 2014 pollutant levels in the legacy Coleraine, Ballymoney and Moyle areas have remained below the annual mean concentration of 40µg/m³. The annual mean objective level continues to be exceeded within the AQMA in Dungiven (please refer to graphs below). Based on these findings, it is proposed to continue monitoring within the AQMA only.

Coleraine



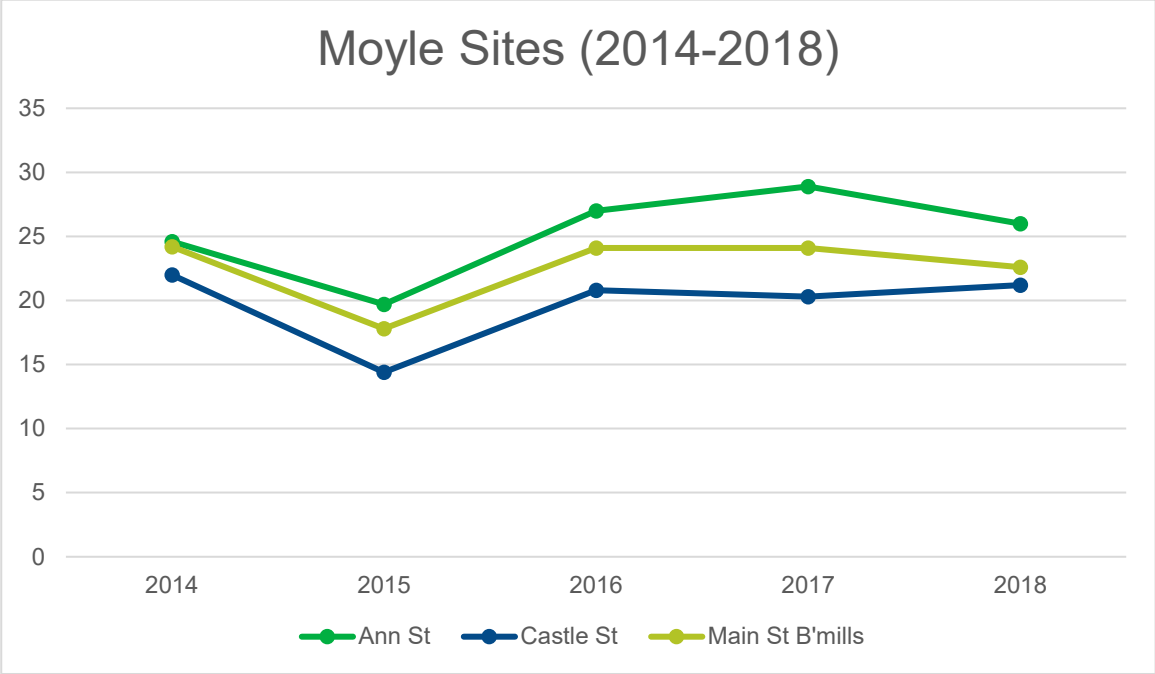
Levels of NO_2 in the Union Street area of Coleraine have been relatively constant over the past 5 years. The annual mean concentration has not been exceeded at any of the sites.

Dungiven AQMA Main Street



The annual mean objective level of 40µg/m³ continues to be exceeded at two monitoring sites within the Dungiven AQMA. These two sites, C & G, correspond with two junctions which lead onto Main Street. Location C where the Ballyquin Road meets Main Street is often where traffic builds up when traffic on Main Street is attempting to turn right onto the Ballyquin Road. Similarly, traffic builds up close location C in periods of high traffic flow and when traffic is attempting to make a right turn off Main Street onto New Street.

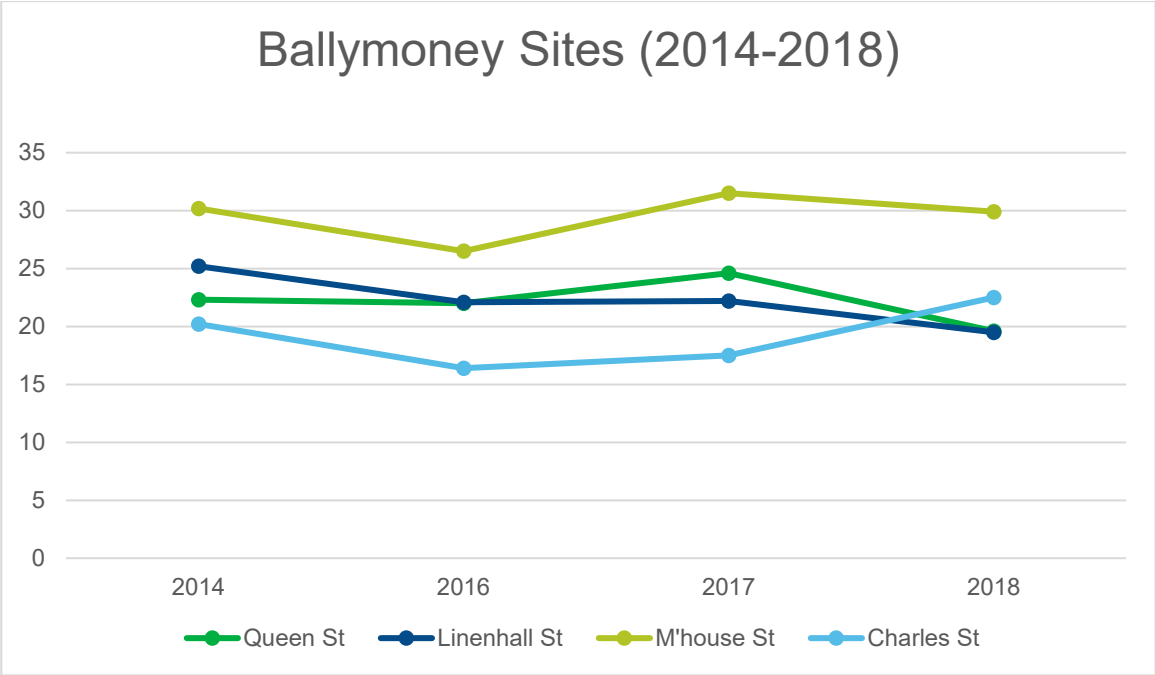
Moyle



NO_2 objective levels are not exceeded at any of the Moyle sites. Levels within Ann Street and Castle Street in Ballycastle and Main Street Bushmills do not exceed 30

µg/m³

Ballymoney



NO_2 levels at the monitoring sites within Ballymoney have all been below the annual mean concentration of 40µg/m³ over the past 5 years.

It had been suggested that additional NO_2 monitoring should be carried out within the one-way system in Coleraine town centre (Brook St/Long Commons/Tesco/Hanover Place). Previous reports compiled by the legacy Coleraine office state that the Environmental Health Department had previously conducted monitoring in these streets. Monitoring was carried out in Long Commons as far back as 2002 when levels were measured at 23.4µg/m³ (Stage 2 Review & Assessment 2002). Within the USA published in 2012 Table 2.4 lists monitoring data collected for these areas. This is summarised below.

Street Name	**2009 (µg/m³)**	**2010 (µg/m³)**	**2011 (µg/m³)**
Brook Street	33.14	29.65	27.21
Long Commons	20.36	24.66	19.47
Tesco	22.86	27.23	20.91

Hanover Place	23.84	25.72	21.92

The data clearly shows that levels were significantly lower that the annual mean objective level. These areas were screened out at this time as needing no further attention. This data, and the fact that automotive technologies have improved since this monitoring was undertaken demonstrates that there is no relevant exposure to high concentrations of NO_2 within these locations.

Recommendation

As limits are not exceeded at any of these passive monitoring sites, we will discontinue use as of 31 March 2020. Passive monitoring will continue within the AQMA in Dungiven.