



Air Quality in Scotland

Welcome to the 18th Scottish Air Quality Database (SAQD) stakeholder's newsletter. This newsletter is produced on behalf of the Scottish Government by Ricardo and is designed to provide regular updates and news regarding the SAQD and local air quality matters to all stakeholders. This may include; updates to the network; new information on air quality issues; updates on changes in policy and procedures; new initiatives and events; technical reports; and how to access data using the Air Quality in Scotland website.

If you have any information which you think would be beneficial to include in a future newsletter, please email us at aq-monitoring-scotland@ricardo.com.

NEWS

Scottish Air Quality Maps for 2021

This technical report has been produced on behalf of the Scottish Government as part of the Scottish Air Quality Database project. It provides Scotland Specific air pollutant maps of annual mean background and roadside NO_x, NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations for 2021. The interactive report can be accessed here: [Scottish Air Quality Maps](#).

Air Quality: Policies, Proposals and Concerns

The UK House of Commons Library has released a briefing on evolving air quality policies and legislation across the UK, targets, statistics and health and inequality concerns. This briefing gives an overview of the current outdoor air quality legal framework, the changing governance and enforcement mechanisms following the UK's EU exit, forthcoming legislative changes and ongoing issues and concerns. the full report can be accessed via the house of commons library website [here](#).

EU Parliament votes to delay compliance with WHO air quality standards until 2035

The European Parliament on Wednesday (13 September) adopted its position on a revised law to improve air quality in the EU, calling for stricter limits on several pollutants, but

delaying compliance with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines until 2035. See full article [here](#)

Latest Air Pollution in the UK Report (2022) Published

The latest in the long running series of annual reports on "Air Pollution in the UK" was published by Defra in September. The report summarises the measurements from the UK's Air Quality Monitoring Networks in 2022. It includes comprehensive data and analyses from the calendar year (January to December) of 2022. The full report can be viewed [here](#).

UK Air Compliance Map Updated

In line with the publication of the Air Pollution in the UK 2022 report the UK Air Quality compliance Map has been updated with the most recent data. You can access the map via UK air website [here](#)

Air quality in London over the last two decades, the impact of the ULEZ

The 4 major Scottish cities have relatively recently implemented Low Emissions Zones to tackle the issue of elevated air pollution in the city centres. BBC Newsnight has released an interesting short video on X (previously twitter) that looks at how NO₂ pollution concentrations have changed in London over the last two decades with the introduction of various

iterations of its current Ultra Low Emission Zone. The video can be viewed [here](#).

Internet of things Sensor network

Airqualitynews.com have released an interesting article discussing the "Internet of things Sensor network". Part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City regional deal, the network, run by the University of Edinburgh, is aiming to provide a variety of environmental sensors to every school in south east Scotland. You can read the full article here: [Internet of things Sensor network](#).

UK SUMMER 2023 OZONE REPORT PUBLISHED

Ricardo have produced a report looking at ozone concentrations in the UK during summer 2023. The report can be found [here](#) and in the Air Quality in Scotland website technical reports [page](#).

APRS AND DIFFUSION TUBE DATA REQUESTS

As 2023 LAQM APRs approvals begin to filter through and in turn published, please can you send through the reports to be uploaded to the Air Quality Scotland Website? If you have any other historical LAQM documents missing from the website please send them through as well (<https://www.scottishairquality.scot/laqm/laqm-reports>).

Once your APR is published can you also send through your diffusion tube data (as done previously) for 2022 to be included in the Air Quality in Scotland NO₂ diffusion tube map <https://www.scottishairquality.scot/latest>.

As previous, please use the templates attached to send through your data. Alternatively you can use previously populated templates and add the 2022 annual mean data. If you have added new

sites in 2021 please include the new meta data and annual mean concentrations in both templates. If you don't have any new sites there is no need to populate the "scottish_NO2_site...." Template. If you have any queries please do not hesitate in contacting David.Hector@ricardo.com.

Local Authority Activities

South Lanarkshire Active and Sustainable Travel Campaign

Encouraging uptake of active and sustainable travel within South Lanarkshire is one of the key measures within South Lanarkshire Council's Air Quality Action Plan. A wide range of projects have been taken forward to encourage travel behaviour change and the following are some examples.

Since 2018 **Beat the Street** active travel games have taken place in Lanark, East Kilbride, Hamilton & Blantyre, and Cambuslang & Rutherglen. Over 45,800 people (between 12 – 17% of the local population) have taken part with participants walking, cycling or wheeling over 600,000 miles. The most recent six-month post-game analysis reported that there has been an 11% decrease in car use with 42% of adults and 54% of children walking, cycling or wheeling more following the game. The next Beat the Street game is due to run in the [Clydesdale](#) area between 20th September and 1st November. More information can be found here: [Beat the Street reports a success in East Kilbride - South Lanarkshire View](#)

Partnership working with colleagues in the Active Schools Team during various Beat the Street projects was key to the success of these projects and we further developed this partnership, working with Active Schools Co-ordinators to produce an active travel teaching resource '**On the Move**'. The pilot project was developed for the Lanark area, and future projects are planned for the Blantyre and East

Kilbride areas. The longer-term aim for this project is for the resource to be available for all schools within SLC. The following link is a View article on the Lanark project : [On the Move to cleaner air in Lanark - South Lanarkshire View](#)

We have also worked in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council to support the development and promotion of [WALKCYCLE4AIR App](#) which encourages walking, cycling and wheeling into Strathclyde Park, a local park which joins both local authority areas together. The joint project aims to encourage both communities to ditch the car and use active travel to visit the park with a longer-term ambition that by increasing active and sustainable travel choices for a leisure perspective, these behaviours will transcend into everyday life. Again a View article can be viewed at the following link: [Clean Air Day breathes life into green travel aims - South Lanarkshire View](#)

To support and encourage the uptake of cycling we ran a behaviour change project called **Love to Ride South Lanarkshire**. This online platform ran quarterly campaigns to encourage, incentivise and reward cycling. The project engaged with 35 workplaces and 248 cyclists recorded 15,138 cycling trips with 4,820 of them for transport. 18% of active new riders became occasional or regular riders with 9% of occasional riders becoming regular riders. More information can be found here - [Cycle for fun and prizes this September - South Lanarkshire View](#)

BetterPoints – Think, Move, Breathe is the most recent active and sustainable travel behaviour project to arrive here in South Lanarkshire. This is another free to download App which allows users to easily record their walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport trips. These trips earn BetterPoints which can be spent at participating local businesses, online, at the supermarket, coffee shop or users can donate their points to local charities. It is early days for this project however so far over 500 people have joined the project. Further information is

available here: [Get more active and help improve air quality - South Lanarkshire View](#)

SAQD QAQC ACTIVITIES

Ricardo have completed the Summer six monthly audits. If you have not received an audit summary, please contact aq-monitoring-scotland@ricardo.com. Could you please then pass these on to your ESU's in advance of the service so that any issues can be investigated.

CALIBRATION GAS SHORTAGES

As you may or may not be aware, there is a general shortage and/or longer lead times in obtaining low concentration calibration gas cylinders for AQ monitoring sites. If you are running low on gas and believe you may run out in the near future we recommend that you reduce the calibration frequency from fortnightly to monthly where appropriate. We would rather have calibrations carried out less frequently than no calibrations at all. If you are already in a position where you can no longer carry out calibrations due to lack of gas please contact one of the Ricardo team as soon as possible and we will look into possible ways to assist.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS SECTION

This section will provide answers to frequently asked questions that relate to different aspects of LAQM ranging from Local Site Operator (LSO) duties to advanced data analysis queries. If you have a question you would like to be answered in this section, please contact aq-monitoring-scotland@ricardo.com.

Q: Why is it important to update Ricardo of any local activities that may impact the data from your monitoring site?

A: Local activities like road works, construction and general maintenance (i.e. cutting back of trees and shrubs) can directly impact the air

quality monitoring data, thus causing the raw data at sites to spike or exhibit periods of unusually high data. LSO insight is invaluable in keeping us informed and ensures that this genuine and valid data is accounted for during the ratification process and is not removed from the dataset. Please email info@scottishairquality.co.uk if you are aware of any issues that may affect the data at any of your sites.

Q: Why is it important to ensure that the analyser sample inlet is in free air?

A: European Union's Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC states that the flow of air around the analyser inlet must be "unrestricted without any obstructions affecting the airflow" – which is not the case if vegetation is growing around it.

Additionally, vegetation acts as a 'sink' for some pollutants, so if the inlet is heavily overgrown it is likely that the monitoring station's measurements will underestimate actual local concentrations.

We would therefore like to remind all LSOs of the need to keep vegetation trimmed back, so that it does not surround or overhang the inlet.

STAY CONNECTED

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