

# Air Quality in Scotland



Welcome to the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:aq-monitoring-scotland@ricardo.com).

## NEWS

### SAQD 2024 dataset is fully ratified Scottish

The SAQD air pollution monitoring network dataset for 2024 is fully ratified and is available via the Air Quality in Scotland website. You can access this data via the individual sites statistics page (i.e.

<https://www.scottishairquality.scot/latest/site-info/PET1>)

or the data selector tool

<https://www.scottishairquality.scot/data/data-selector>.

### New SAQD Annual Statistics report 2024 - Version 2 and dataset available

Scottish Government create an annual report that focuses on compiling all the SAQD automatic monitoring sites annual statistics for 2024. This report is produced annually, once the SAQD dataset is fully ratified.

The latest version of the report can be found on the Air Quality in Scotland website "technical report" pages here

<https://www.scottishairquality.scot/technical-reports/scottish-air-quality-database-statistics-report-2024-version-2>.

In addition, individual local authority statistical reports have also been produced for the 2024 dataset which provide all the statistical analysis needed for LAQM purposes as well as additional analysis. These report can be found here

<https://www.scottishairquality.scot/laqm/statistics>.

### Scottish Air Quality Seminar 2025

The Annual Scottish Air Quality Database and Website Annual Seminar took place on Tuesday 26 March 2025 in Glasgow. Around 100 delegates attended the event from central and local government, the AQ monitoring industry and academia. In total there were 10 speakers presenting on a variety of air quality related subjects.

- Andrew Taylor (Scottish Government) – Air Quality Policy Update
- Dr Heather Price (Scottish AQ Champion) - Air quality vision for Scotland
- Prof. Nicola Carslaw (University of York) - Indoor Air pollution
- Dr Jack Davison (Ricardo) - Interpretation and analysis of AQ data
- Stephen Stratton (Ricardo) - Transport for Greater Manchester Sensor Network and website
- Sylvia Stoianova (University of Bristol) - National Child Mortality Database – Infant deaths due to Asthma
- Sam Wilson (university of York) - Ammonia Emissions from Vehicle Emissions Measurements
- Sarah Robertson (Public Health Scotland) – Outdoor Air Pollution – Our areas of work – Public Health Scotland
- Prof. Brian Castellani (Durham university) – The impact of air pollution on dementia and brain health

- Donald Payne (Fife Council) - Air Quality Sensors - Lessons learned from a local authority perspective

To view their presentation slides and previous seminar presentations please go to the Air Quality in Scotland website here

<https://www.scottishairquality.scot/news/reports/seminars>.

### Updates to LAQM tools

The Air Quality in Scotland website has been updated to include new versions of several LAQM tools. These include:

- New background maps based on 2021 with projections from 2021 to 2040. The new background maps are available to download from <https://www.scottishairquality.scot/data/mapping/data>.
- An updated version of the NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>2</sub> Calculator (v9.1), available to download from: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/air-quality-assessment/nox-to-no2-calculator/>
- An updated version of the Emissions Factors Toolkit (EFT v13), available to download from: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/air-quality-assessment/emissions-factors-toolkit/>

### New interactive ambient air quality map

A new tool has been added to the Air Quality in Scotland website, please see

<https://www.scottishairquality.scot/data/mapping> to view the tool.

The interactive tool, allows you to explore the ambient air quality concentration data from the Scottish Government's Pollution Climate Mapping modelling, from 2019 to the most recent model year. Using the drop-down menus in the toolbar, the tool allows the user to switch between background and roadside maps for NO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (available from 2020). Use the transparency slider to change the transparency level of the data layer currently shown on the map. For the roadside data, it may be beneficial to move the

transparency slider further to the right to make the lines more visible. The map layers can be clicked (when zoomed in to a sufficient level) to return the concentration of each pollutant in a table below the map, for the selected year, at the point of the click. If more than one row of data is returned, the point selected either spanned more than one grid square (for the background map) or more than one road (for the roadside map); zoom in further and click again to select one grid square/road.

### Get Involved: Join Scotland's Air Quality Engagement Network

The Scottish Government is inviting stakeholders with an interest in air quality to join the Air Quality Engagement Network—a dedicated space on the Knowledge Hub for collaboration, learning, and the exchange of best practices.

The network brings together stakeholders from across Scotland to support efforts in improving air quality.

To request to join the Hub, simply visit [Home - Scotland's Air Quality Engagement Network - Knowledge Hub](#) on the Knowledge Hub and fill in your details.

Join the conversation—help shape the future of Scotland's air quality!

### Updating AQMA records

If you have had an AQMA (Area Quality management Area) revoked or amended recently and it has not yet been update on the Air Quality in Scotland website please go to the LAQM portal and update accordingly. By updating the information in the LAQM portal this will update both the Air Quality Scotland website as well as the UK-Air website database. The link to the LAQM portal is provided below (<https://www.laqmportal.co.uk/login> if you have any issues accessing the portal contact the LAQM portal support team at [admin.laqmportal@bureauveritas.com](mailto:admin.laqmportal@bureauveritas.com))

## Clean Air Day activities in Fife – Written by Fife Council

For Clean Air Day (CAD) 2025 Fife Council rolled out air pollution education packages to three primary schools in the Fife area - namely Saline PS, St Maries RC PS and Kinglassie PS. Fife Council contracted consultants Ricardo to provide class Teachers with bite sized presentations covering topics such as 'What is Air Pollution?', 'How is Air Quality Monitored?', as well as information highlighting the schools local AQMA. Positive behaviour changes to help improve local air quality were also promoted such as sustainable travel options. In addition to the presentation pack, a citizen science pack was provided to the chosen class with each pack containing up to 25 diffusion tubes as well as a portable air quality monitor to allow the pupils to undertake their own air quality monitoring study.



One of the diffusion tubes put up by pupils of Saline Primary School.

When the monitoring results are compiled, the teacher will be provided with a follow up presentation to give to the class. The presentation will show their results on a map and allow the pupils to discuss their thoughts on the findings of their study and how it may have confirmed or contrasted with what they previously thought.

The pupils will also be given the opportunity to design anti-idling posters which will be printed and provided to the schools to put out around the school grounds

These activities were promoted on Fife Council's social media platforms to spread the CAD message.

## SAQD QAQC ACTIVITIES

Ricardo are currently carrying out the Summer 2025 audits of the SAQD monitoring sites. Auditors will contact you prior to the audit to arrange access and again after the audit to provide a summary.

If an audit summary has not been provided after the visit has been completed, or you are unclear on any of the recommended actions, please contact either the auditor who undertook the visit or [aq-monitoring-scotland@ricardo.com](mailto:aq-monitoring-scotland@ricardo.com). Can you please then pass these on to your ESU's in advance of the service so that any issues can be investigated.

If you have any questions regarding the QAQC site audits or data ratification process, please contact any of the Ricardo SAQD team whose details are provided in the Stay connected section of the newsletters.

## 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](mailto:aq-monitoring-scotland@ricardo.com).

*Q: Vegetation is starting to encroach the inlet of one of my sites, what should I do?*

*A: Vegetation is the responsibility of the LSO to manage, if possible. If it is not possible then please contact Ricardo and provide images of the vegetation.*

*Q: The span on the calibration is 10% out or significantly different to previous calibrations. What should I do?*

*A: Please call into Ricardo whilst on site to help resolve the issue. If this is not flagged whilst on site it may result in an LSO callout being raised.*

*Q: There is an error on the analyser, who do I contact?*

A: Please contact the Ricardo team on the phone for immediate resolution, this may require follow up discussions with your ESU.

## STAY CONNECTED

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<https://www.scottishairquality.scot/stay-informed/apps>

**Sign up to Scotland's free air pollution alert messaging system**



<http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/know-and-respond/>