



Air Quality in Scotland

Welcome to the 26th 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

The 2026 Scottish Air Quality Seminar

Please be advised that the Scottish Air Quality Seminar presentations that was carried out on the 17th March 2026 are now available on the website. Unfortunately the presentation slides for two presentations ("Translating Air Quality Research into Better Children's Health and "The Arctic Challenge") were not made available by the presenters. The slides can be found [here](#).

Fully ratified 2025 data and annual statistics reports now available on the website

Please be advised that the 2025 SAQD network dataset is now fully ratified and available on the Air Quality in Scotland website through the [data selector](#) function and individual site statistics pages. In addition, the annual statistics reports for 2025 are also available for each local authority in the [LAQM pages](#) of the website. These reports provide all the relevant statistics for use in your LAQM reporting along with additional useful data analysis produced using the [Openair analysis tools](#).

The SAQD automatic monitoring site network 2025 annual statistics report has also been published on the Air Quality in Scotland website and can be found [here](#). This report brings

together all the SAQD automatic monitoring network statistics data into one document.

If you have any issues accessing the data, reports or would like additional information on the data please contact David.Hector@wsp.com

Scotland's Climate Change Plan:2026-2040

The Scottish Government has released its Climate Change Plan (CCP) which sets out its policies and proposals for enabling its carbon budgets to be met between 2026 and 2040.

It can be viewed [here](#).

Scotland's first Environment Strategy

The Scottish government has created Scotland's first Environment Strategy, designed to create an integrated framework for environmental and climate related policies. It aims to support a whole-of-government approach to fulfilling Scotland's role in tackling climate change, pollution and loss of nature.

It can be viewed [here](#).

Update to the NHS Inform Website to include wildfires

In the run up to summer and potentially more wildfires an update has been made to the NHS inform outdoor air pollution and health page to include information about the health impacts

these can cause. Please see the updated page [here](#).

University of Leeds study into the air quality impacts of Moorland burning

The University of Leeds has carried out research into the impact of prescribed burning on PM_{2.5} concentrations.

During the months analysed, primary emissions of PM_{2.5} were equivalent to one third of that from road transport, with exposure highest in Northern England, North Scotland and East Scotland. almost one in five people in affected areas were found to have been exposed to unsafe levels of pollution on at least one day in the burning season.

Clean Air Day Activities in Fife

For Clean Air Day this year (Thursday 18th June) Fife Council organised an educational visit to Leslie Primary School's P4/5 class and Class Teacher Ms Pryde.

On the day, a member of staff from Ricardo visited Leslie Primary School to give a presentation to the Primary 4/5 pupils, teaching them about air pollution, where it comes from and how it is measured. Positive behaviour change was also encouraged, with pupils giving good examples of how they currently travel to school each day - pupils actively take part in the Fresh Air Frankie Travel Tracker. Just that morning some of the Primary 4's had also taken part in a Bikeability class.

After the presentation, using their knowledge of their school and what they had learned about air pollution earlier in the day, pupils designed their own school monitoring study. Pupils then embarked on their monitoring studies, with each group being given a personal sensor and tablet displaying the readings around their school and noted what they found at each of their chosen locations. At the end of their monitoring study, the different groups results were discussed as a class. Pupils were encouraged to think about results and what different conclusions could be drawn.

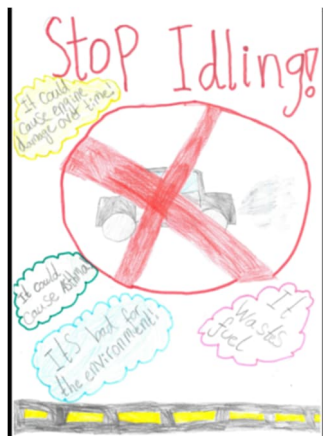


Anti-idling Schools Campaign – Written by The Highland Council

The Highland Council ran an Anti-Idling campaign to tie in with Clean Air Day activities in 2025. This involved engagement with schools, installation of Anti-Idling signage and banners, provision of information packs for pupils and school newsletter articles to inform parents of the issue, and engagement with parents and drivers at school gates at pick-up and drop-off times. In addition, School Roadshows were attended in collaboration with Safer Routes and Active Travel initiatives, staff provided a presence within Inverness on Clean Air Day talking to drivers and the public, and a media-based campaign was undertaken, all highlighting the issues associated with engine idling and air pollution.

This tied in with The Highland Councils ongoing Schools Project, through which school engagement and information sharing regarding air quality issues has continued throughout 2025/2026. The project has involved monitoring of air pollution levels around school perimeters by way of installation of live air quality monitoring equipment positioned at school drop-off zones, alongside placement of passive diffusion tubes to allow quantification of the outdoor air quality against Scottish Government air quality targets. This is followed up with a visit to P6/7 classes to provide a presentation on the topic of Air Quality and discuss results of the monitoring undertaken. A summary sheet of results is then provided for each school with the information available for issue to parents, teachers and pupils.

Using this data has helped to highlight the negative effect of traffic on air pollution at school drop-off and pick-up times and issues surrounding engine idling. Results of the project have been positive with many pupils running their own awareness raising campaigns. Permanent fixed Anti-Idling signs have been installed on railings at each school visited to date, which has included all primary schools within Inverness city centre and several within other smaller towns in the Highland area.



Ricardo are becoming WSP

In October last year Ricardo, who run the Scottish Air Quality Database and Website project for Scottish Government were acquired by WSP. Ricardo have continued to trade under the name Ricardo since then, however from the 1st July 2026 they will officially be integrated into WSP and the Ricardo name will be withdrawn. This will mean that emails from the

SAQD project team will now be from “wsp.com” instead of “ricardo.com”. The change will not impact any of the project deliverables or SAQD services and the delivery team will remain the same. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the project manager David Hector at david.hector@wsp.com.

SAQD QAQC ACTIVITIES

The Ricardo air quality field team began the 6 monthly UKAS accredited monitoring site audits on the 8th June 2026. These audits are part of the quality assurance quality control process and help ensure the sites are working properly and meet the relevant UK and international standards. The data will also be used within the data ratification process and help ensure compatibility with the UK standard objectives and other UK networks. UKAS calibration certificates can be obtained from the LAQM pages on the Air Quality in Scotland website. Auditors will contact the relevant local authority site operators prior to the audit to arrange access and enquire whether training is needed. After the audit is carried out, the auditor will provide a summary of results and advice on what to do next.

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. Can you please then pass these on audit information to your ESU's in advance of the service so that any issues can be investigated.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS SECTION

Question: How do I access my 2026 ratified dataset?

Answer: Go to the Air Quality in Scotland website. Select the “Data & Maps” tab and then “Measurements and Annual statistics”. Using the drop-down options to select the type of data/statistics you would like and the site you would like it for. You can also get all the relevant statistics from the individual site located on the

interactive monitoring [map](#). Just select the site in question and then go to “Statistics”. In addition, the annual statistics reports for 2025 are also available for each local authority in the [LAQM pages](#) of the website. These reports provide all the relevant statistics for use in your LAQM reporting along with additional useful data analysis produced using the [Openair analysis tools](#).

If you have any issues obtaining the data you need please contact any of the Ricardo team stated below

STAY CONNECTED

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