

LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT - UPDATE

Integration of Air Quality Action Plans into Local Transport Plans (LTPs)

1 English Local Authorities with transport related AQMAs provided progress reports to Defra in July. Defra is currently appraising the progress reports.

Department for Transport is consulting on the draft guidance on LTP reporting requirements for 2008. The consultation is aimed primarily at partners and stakeholders in local and regional government and in the communities they serve. Comments are also welcome from members of the public interested in the future of local transport planning in England. The consultation document is available on the DfT website <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/localtransportplanning/>

LAQM Statistics

2 The table shows the number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) declared and Air Quality Action Plans submitted to Defra/devolved administrations. Figures in () were last reported figures.

	Number of AQMAs declared	Number of Action Plans received
England	189 (180)	143 (134)
Scotland	12(11)	3 (3)
Wales	5 (4)	4 (2)
Northern Ireland	19(22)*	8 (6)

* 3 AQMAs have now been revoked in NI

3. Majority of AQMAs designated are for nitrogen dioxide and particulates (PM₁₀) objectives. Road traffic emissions are the main source in 95% of the AQMAs. Only a handful have been designated as a result of industrial sources. The first AQMA for benzene (2010 objective) was designated in England, in 2005. 50% of AQMAs in Northern Ireland have been designated for domestic emissions.

4. The majority of the Action Plans received focus on measures dealing with road traffic, such as local traffic management schemes, setting up clear zones, low emissions zones (particularly in London) or working with the Highways Agency to tackle pollution on the motorways/trunk roads. Defra encouraged English authorities whose draft action plan primarily related to local road transport to integrate them into the second round of LTPs. A number of London local authorities are beginning to revise their Air Quality Action Plans

Third round of reviews and assessments

5. Local authorities began their third round of reviews and assessments by submitting an Updating and Screening Assessment report in 2006. In April 2006

authorities who identified the need for further work, following their USA, were required to submit a Detailed Assessment by the end of April 2007, while authorities who did not complete a Detailed Assessment report were required to produce an Annual Progress Report.

To date, around 50% of English authorities, 60% of Scottish authorities, 100% of Welsh authorities, and 75% of NI authorities required to submit a Detailed Assessment have done so. Around 69% of English authorities and 95% of Welsh authorities, 90 % of Scottish authorities and 77% of NI authorities required to submit a Progress Report, have done so.

Air Quality Grant

6. Defra has informed English local authorities of their grant allocations and payment has been made. Defra allocated approximately £2.4m out of £6.6m bids that were received. Bids were assessed against priority criteria.

Update of LAQM Guidance

7. Defra and the devolved administrations are taking forward an update of the Technical and Policy guidance. The plan is to consult on draft guidance by the first half of 2008.

Defra/DAs
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