

<b>Authority:</b>	<b>Wokingham Borough Council</b>
<b>Reference:</b>	<b>ASR19-0168</b>
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	<b>November 2019</b>

## **Annual Status Report**

The Report sets out the Annual Status Report, which forms part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent regulations.

Wokingham Borough Council has declared three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) for exceedances of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) objective. These are located in Wokingham Town Centre, Twyford Crossroads and 60 metres either side of the M4 throughout the whole of the borough. In 2018, monitoring within the Wokingham and Twyford AQMAs continued to show exceedances of the NO<sub>2</sub> objective, but the objective was met in the M4 AQMA, with marked improvements in the maximum monitored concentrations . As a consequence, the Council have stated that they wish to review the possible revocation of the M4 AQMA in the next reporting year.

During 2018 the Council only monitored for NO<sub>2</sub>, via a network of passive diffusion tubes at 48 different sites, an increase from 2017 where 42 sites were monitored. The Council have no continuous monitors. In 2018, all sites showed a reduction in NO<sub>2</sub>.

The Council provide a detailed account of their QA/QC procedures and provide a rationale for their use of the local bias adjustment factor. The Council have also applied distance corrections with calculations provided. No annualisation was required. The report provides good indepth discussion of local PM<sub>2.5</sub> issues and the measures the Council have in place to tackle PM<sub>2.5</sub>. However do not make reference to Public Health Outcomes Framework indicator for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants, with the provisos listed in the commentary below. The Council should continue to implement their air quality strategy, and continue monitoring. Following the completion of this report, Wokingham Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2020.

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## Commentary

The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance. The following comments are designed to help inform future reports.

1. The Council present several figures displaying the location of monitoring sites and the AQMA boundary. In addition to this it would be beneficial for the Council to include one figure with all the monitoring locations and AQMA boundary. This way the reader can gauge how the monitoring locations relate spatially to one another.
2. Table 2.1 in the report does not correlate to the table within the attached excel spreadsheet. It appears as though the Council have not included the Wokingham AQMA within the table. In future reports can the Council please ensure that all active AQMAs are present in Table 2.1. In addition, the latest concentrations should be included in the Table, whereas the concentrations referenced were representative of 2017 concentrations and had not been updated. This does not fully reflect the NO<sub>2</sub> improvements achieved within 2018 as a result.
3. It would be useful if Section 2.3 could make reference to the Public Health Outcomes Framework, and the local indicator for PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the district. The Council may wish to consider comparing the '3.01 - Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution indicator' value for Wokingham to nearby LAs and National indicator values. This can be found in the link below. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomesframework/data#page/0/gid/1000043/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/101/-are/E07000194>.
4. The Council discuss trends in NO<sub>2</sub> with respect to spatial location, i.e grouping the trends by AQMAs and outside of AQMAs. This approach to data discussion is useful as it makes understanding NO<sub>2</sub> trends within the borough extremely easy for the reader. The Council are encouraged to continue this method to data discussion.
5. The Council have stated that they wish to consider the revocation of the M4 AQMA due to continued low levels of NO<sub>2</sub>. This fall in concentrations have been linked to the opening of the new motorway bridge and the Shinfield Eastern Relief Road. The Council have stated that there has been a movement in traffic on the A327 away from current monitoring locations. Prior to revoking the M4 AQMA, the Council may wish to change monitoring locations to assess whether the movement of traffic has caused an

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increase of NO<sub>2</sub> elsewhere along the AQMA. It is recommended that at least 3 full years of continued compliance are achieved before AQMA revocation.

6. The report states that no annualisation of monitoring was required, and therefore no calculations have been applied. However, Table A.3 states data capture for the year of 66.7% for WOK817, which should have therefore been annualised, as per paragraph 7.124 of LAQM.TG(16).
7. Data presented in Table A.3 has been distance corrected. The Council should be aware that this is not the correct method for presenting NO<sub>2</sub> results. Data within the main body of the report are to only be bias adjusted and annualised (where appropriate). Distance corrected results are to only be presented in Table B.1 and discussed where appropriate. It is recommended that the Council adhere to the data presentation method outlined above in future ASRs.
8. The Council provide an example calculation for distance correction in the appendix, this is appreciated, however it would be beneficial for the Council to use the Multiple Tube calculator that is provided by Defra so that the calculations for all tubes can be seen. As per paragraph 7.78 of LAQM.TG(16), it is also not essential to distance correct all sites that are not at risk of exceedance of the objective, which may save the Council reporting time.
9. Overall the report is highly detailed and satisfies the criteria of relevant standards The Council should continue their good work and submit an Annual Status Report in 2020.

This commentary is not designed to deal with every aspect of the report. It highlights a number of issues that should help the local authority either in completing the Annual Status Report adequately (if required) or in carrying out future Review & Assessment work.

**Issues specifically related to this appraisal can be followed up by returning the attached comment form to Defra, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government or DOE, as appropriate**

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:

Telephone: 0800 0327 953

Email: [LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com](mailto:LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com)

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## **Appraisal Response Comment Form**

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

**Comments on appraisal/Further information:**