

Local Authority:	Exeter City Council
Reference:	ASR20-0619
Date of issue	August 2020

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.

Exeter City Council has one Air Quality Management Area AQMA; Exeter AQMA (2011) declared for exceedances of NO₂ annual mean and 1-Hour Mean air quality objectives (AQO). The AQMA has an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) that was published in 2018.

The Council undertook automatic monitoring of NO₂, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and O₃ at one continuous monitoring station and PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} at another continuous monitoring station in 2019. The council also undertook non-automatic NO₂ diffusion monitoring at 81 monitoring locations in 2019, an increase of 10 from 2018. Six monitoring sites (a decrease from eight in 2018) recorded NO₂ annual mean concentrations in excess of the annual Air Quality Objective (AQO) of 40 µg/m³ and all are located within the AQMA. Four are at locations of relevant exposure but two are not and once distance corrected to the nearest receptor do not exceed the AQOs. The maximum annual mean concentration measured across the network was 53.5 at DT57 East Wonford Hill, this is a considerable decrease from 2018 where the maximum concentration (also at DT57) was 61.68 µg/m³.

There were no NO₂ concentrations in excess of 60 µg/m³, suggesting that there were no exceedances of the 1-hour mean AQO at any diffusion tube site. Furthermore, there were no exceedances of the 1-hour mean AQO at any automatic monitoring site. There have been no exceedances of PM₁₀ objectives at either of the continuous monitoring sites. 2018 saw increases in NO₂ concentrations from 2017. However in 2019, 60 of the same 67 locations in 2017 showed decreases in NO₂. The Council have accredited the overall increase in 2018 to be the result of natural variation between years and not the start of any upward trend.

QA/QC procedures have been applied for bias adjustment (using a local factor), distance corrections (for sites not representative of relevant exposure), and annualisation (for sites with low data capture). Screenshots and example calculations have been provided which are useful and encouraged for all future reports.

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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. Following the completion of this report, Exeter City Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2021.

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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 have provided a detailed update on progress made on their AQAP measures. They have discussed which key measures have been completed within the reporting year and what barriers to implementation they anticipate facing in the coming year with respects to there other measures. The Council anticipate funding to be the main barrier to implementation. The Council are encouraged to continue providing updates to their measure so that progress can be easily tracked.
2. There have been ten new diffusion tube sites added to the monitoring network in 2019 and a further three have been added in 2020. The 10 new tubes added in 2019 are located in areas where new housing is being developed. It is encouraging to see that the Council are mindful of the potential impact new developments may have on air quality. The Council have continued to demonstrate that they are taking an active approach to reviewing and amending their monitoring program where deemed appropriate. The Council are encouraged to do this on a regular basis to ensure monitoring is taking place at all areas of potential exceedance at locations of relevant exposure.
3. The Council have provided a very clear and concise discussion on pollutant trends within the city. Comparisons in NO₂ concentrations have been made between reporting years and the Council have not only considered the impacts of anthropogenic activities (i.e. emissions from roads) but also the impacts of meteorological variation on air quality. This is encouraging to see and demonstrates the Council's wider understanding on the various factors that may influence air quality.
4. It would be beneficial for the Council to also present diffusion tube concentrations in graphs. It is appreciated at the Council have many monitoring locations, so focus could be made in presenting NO₂ concentrations only within the AQMA. This way NO₂ trends within the AQMA can be made visual and easier to understand for the reader.

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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 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

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: