

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 04 August 2025

Question from: Jill Wilkinson

Question to: _____ Councillor Scullion, Leader of the Council

QUESTION

I note with interest that the Air Quality Annual Status Report 2024 originally published on the Council's website in October 2024 dated September 2024 has recently been replaced with a version dated May 2025.

Please can you advise:

What instigated the need to publish a new version of the Air Quality Annual Status Report 2024?

What changes have been made in the recently published version?

Whether the previously published Air Quality Annual Status Report 2024 dated September 2024 contained inaccurate information?

Please can you also confirm that the data included in the Air Quality Action Plan 2024 fully aligns with the Air Quality Annual Status Report 2024 dated May 2025.

Response

A new Air Quality Annual Status report is produced annually in accordance with the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) requirements. The reports are dated the year they are produced i.e. this years is dated May 2025 but the report reviews the data captured over the previous year. The Air Quality Annual Status Report dated 2024 remains unchanged and is a review of the 2023 data.

The May 2025 report published, follows the same structure as the 2024 report. The structure of the reports align to allow effective comparison of data from year to year, however the data sets are taken from two separate years and therefore will not precisely align.

The 2024 air quality report did contain an inaccurate figure, due to human error. This was swiftly amended. No further changes were made to the report.

Compared to 2024, annual mean NO₂ concentrations in the 2025 report decreased at 50 out of the 62 monitoring sites. Measured concentrations of NO₂ exceeded the annual mean air quality objective (at a location of relevant exposure) within AQMA No.1 Salterhebble, AQMA No.2 (Sowerby Bridge), AQMA No.6 (Brighouse) and AQMA No.7 (Hipperholme).

The table below taken from the 2025 report shows the decrease in NO₂ recorded at the three automatic monitoring sites in Calderdale. From 2023-2024, we would expect to see a decrease again in the 2025 figures.(reported in 2026). The main reason attributed to this is the use of cleaner vehicles which is a UK wide trend.

| 2023 | 2024 |
|------|------|
| 34.5 | 30.8 |
| 32.4 | 30.5 |
| 32.7 | 31.4 |

Exceedances in the Air Quality Management Areas AQMA's remain however two areas, Luddendenfoot and Stump Cross have been able to be revoked due to levels remaining below required levels for 4+ years.