Cabinet Meeting: **Monday, 01 September 2025**

Question from: **Jeanette Hunton**

Question to: **Councillor Durrans, Cabinet Member with responsilbity for Public Services and Communities**

QUESTION

Appendix C: Supporting Technical Information / Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC, sub-section QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring of the recently published Calderdale Council's 2025 Air Quality Annual Status Report includes the following statement.

"Before improvements were made in March 2024, it was common for site codes to be incorrectly transcribed by SOCOTEC, resulting in measurements for Site IDs that did not match Calderdale Council's master list (for example AQ21 might have been transcribed as A21, or AQS1). This resulted in a process where some measurements had to be assigned to the best estimate of the Site ID. This introduced some additional uncertainty to the 2024 results."

I would like to know whether the mis-match of diffusion tube results to site IDs only occurred during 2024 or whether it is likely to have also occurred in previous years meaning there is also potential uncertainty in previously reported results and if so which years?

I would also like to know why the December 2024 diffusion tube result for SB1 (30.1 µg/m3) reported in Table B.1 – NO2 2024 Diffusion Tube Results (µg/m3) was so significantly lower (over 40% lower) than the other months for the same location which were all broadly consistent and averaged 50.8 µg/m3.

I also note that in Table B.1 – NO2 2024 Diffusion Tube Results (µg/m3) SB1 is missing 4 months of data (January to March and June) and SBAQ is missing 6 months of results (July to December). Please can you clarify why?

Response

There has been no previous indication during analysis of the data of site codes being incorrectly transcribed. This is a process that is carried out at an independent laboratory and not something Calderdale Council undertake.

It is not possible to give an exact reason for any reduction in emissions as the diffusion tubes capture gases from different sources such as road traffic, industry, agriculture and domestic sources. Across the UK, trends in NO2 have shown a decease thought to be attributed to cleaner vehicle use. As there have been issues with some of the site descriptions being transcribed incorrectly, monitoring will continue at the site as normal so we can determine if this drop in emissions is a continued trend or an erroneous result.

The gaps in data are unfortunately down to the issues in the transcribing of site locations.