
Local Authority:	Richmondshire District Council
Reference:	ASR22-1297
Date of issue	July 2022

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

The Annual Status Report sets out new information on air quality obtained by Richmondshire District Council as part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) and subsequent Regulations.

Richmondshire District Council (RDC) does not have any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the district, as they have been no exceedances of the air quality objective (AQO). Therefore, there no Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) is required. RDC have reported actions that are being taken to improve and maintain the good air quality in the district, which include measures reported in Local Plans and other measures related to the traffic management and promoting alternative travel. This is welcomed as it highlights RDC's commitment to good air quality in the district.

RDC have reported a Public Health Outcome Framework's indicator for 'Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution' of 4%, which is lower than the regional and national average. No specific actions to tackle PM_{2.5} have been reported.

RDC did not carry out any automatic monitoring of NO₂ or particulate matter in 2021. Non-automatic (passive) monitoring of NO₂ was undertaken at 15 sites across the District. There was one sample station change for 2021, whereby the sample station at Scotch Corner on the A1/A66 interchanges was moved to 16 Catterick Road, Cattrick Garrison. The Council state that this move was a result of the low reported concentrations of NO₂ at Scotch Corner, as well as the spatial nature of the testing site and an area of potential concern raised in the Catterick Garrison area. Monitored NO₂ was well below the annual mean AQO for NO₂ at all sites, with a maximum concentration of 23.8 µg/m³ (at R16).

Data capture was good at all sites (>90%) and no sites required annualisation. QA/QC of monitoring was presented in detail. However, RDC provided insufficient reasoning and evidence for the application of the chosen (national) bias adjustment factor, which is encouraged in future reports.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are accepted for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, Richmondshire District Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2023.

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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 reported the Public Health Outcomes Framework indicator for the 'fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution' and provided a comparison with the regional and national average. This is welcomed and we encourage this to continue in future ASRs.
2. The Council have reported robust QA/QC. However, there is no mention of the local bias adjustment factor, nor any justification for the selection of the national bias adjustment factor. The Council is encouraged to provide more reasoning and evidence for the selection of the bias adjustment factor in future reports.
3. Trends are presented, but discussion is minimal. It is important that trends are discussed, as this shows that changes in air quality are being monitored over time. For example, if a monitoring site shows an increase or decrease in a particular year, it would be useful to try to identify why. The Council is encouraged to include said discussions in future reports.
4. The report is generally well formatted and clear maps have been included that show monitoring sites in the district with clear labels.
5. Comments from last year's ASR have not been included. This is encouraged in future ASRs to ensure the council are correcting all issues highlighted.
6. Overall, the report is detailed, concise and mostly satisfies the criteria of the relevant reporting standard. The Council should continue their good work.

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 Government, Scottish Government or DOE.

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:
 Telephone: 0800 0327 953
 Email: LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
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Comments on appraisal/Further information: