

## LOCAL AUTHORITY WEBINAR Q&A

Ricardo Spotlight on Air Quality: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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<b>Air Quality Public Engagement</b>	What software is the OxonAir mapping tool built on? e.g., GIS / Maps Online? Or something bespoke?	It is using OpenStreetMap, there's an accreditation for it in the bottom right-hand corner of the mapping tool
	With your diffusion tube index, I'd be interested to know more about this. How have you explained the difference between AQS objectives and WHO guidelines which is a common area of confusion for the lay person.	<p>We have two different sections on the website where we refer to WHO guidelines. On the section "legislation"</p> <p><a href="https://www.oxonair.uk/about-air-quality/legislation">https://www.oxonair.uk/about-air-quality/legislation</a></p> <p>and then when we explain the rationale behind the diffusion tube index here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.oxonair.uk/about-air-quality/diffusion-tube-index">https://www.oxonair.uk/about-air-quality/diffusion-tube-index</a></p> <p>We have kept the explanation quite simple on the subject, simply saying that WHO has clear evidence of the damage air pollution inflicts on human health at much lower concentrations than the existing legal limit values for air pollutants.</p>
	Who provide your AQ forecasts please	These forecasts are from the Met Office, more information can be found by clicking on the forecast tab information icon where a link to UK Air can be found, providing detailed information on forecasts.
	When placing any technical documents on your web site (ASRs, AQAPs) did you have to consider accessibility requirements (for the visually impaired etc.)	Question already answered on the webinar. But yes, we have considered accessibility requirements as much as possible during the development of the website -the main colours of the website reflect that concern. For the mapping diffusion tube colour bands, we have decided to go with a standard red to green colour scheme (fully aware that this wasn't great for the colour blind – but we have created strategies to overcome those issues (for example by showing the annual mean concentration at each monitoring site within the designated circle of each monitoring site. For the AQAP/ASR documents, we have uploaded them on our website and made them available for download in a similar way we already do in our local authority website -no difference here.
	How do you add the monthly diffusion tube results to the website - does	The diffusion tube results are only added at the end of the year, around the same period the AQ ASR is published -we only upload fully ratified diffusion tube

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	it update each month? As not real time, or do you use the levels to highlight the DAQI only and trends	data to the website. The diffusion tube index is not a daily index.
	Now the website is up and running, do you know how many different visitors you get to it daily/weekly/monthly?	At the end of my presentation, I show a few stats about number of visitors, etc.
	Can you confirm if the AQ Index has been developed, taking into account the different objectives and guidance - i.e., it's a combination of the above? Or do they enable the public to see comparisons between AQO and WHO?	It's a combination of both.  LAQM guidance clearly says that with NO <sub>2</sub> annual means above 60 ug/m <sup>3</sup> its highly likely that we would have hourly breaches of the hourly mean (200 ug/m <sup>3</sup> ) for this pollutant as well, so a specific threshold for > 60 ug/m <sup>3</sup> was created due to this. The other thresholds correspond to the legal limit (40 ug/m <sup>3</sup> ) and the various interim recommended WHO values for NO <sub>2</sub> .
Pollution Route Monitoring	I missed the name of the sensors used for the walk; can you repeat it please.	South Coast Science Praxis Cubes
	What period of time were the sensors co-located and what length of time is considered appropriate?	The sensors were co-located over multiple months as part of an ongoing co-location investigation. However, a period of 2 weeks would suffice to generate accurate factors.
	Why did the sensors need months of colocation before use? Is that practical?	See above answer. 2 weeks is enough for a co-location.
	Sorry I missed what pollutants are monitors measuring?	The map shows NO <sub>2</sub> , but the Praxis Cube also measured PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> and PM <sub>1</sub> . It also measures temperature and relative humidity.
	How long did the external battery last?	Roughly 2 hours.
	So what was considered 100%? Would it be the highest concentration measured on the day?	Yes, 100% was the highest measured 10-second concentration of the walk after ratification of the dataset.
	Were the walks during the morning rush hour?	The walks were completed between 10:00 – 11:00.
	How do you obtain sensor's analytical precision?	Precision is a measure of the standard deviation of multiple measurements of the same sample; therefore we have compared responses of multiple co-located sensors of the same type to understand how they behave. For this work in particular the co-location analysis showed correlation between each sensor was better than 1ppb.
	Are sensors previously mentioned certified?	The MCERTS certification process for the Praxis Cube is currently underway for PM <sub>10</sub> & PM <sub>2.5</sub> . But we have a good understanding of the sensor's performance and

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		uncertainty due to the co-location and QA/QC process. We're also more interested in the relative differences between the routes.
<b>Air Quality Sensors QA/QC</b>	Auditors do not take the instrument apart, so where did the internal photos come from?	These were from the ESU investigating issues found following the audit.
<b>Defra Grants 2024</b>	Do we know when DEFRA will announce the grant results?	Expected in the next few weeks
<b>Case Study: Air Quality Strategy (AQS) &amp; Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)</b>	What is NRMM please?	Non road mobile machinery
	How did quantify wood burning in source apportionment?	LAEI emissions provide a category for wood burning; in the rest of the UK, the NAEI (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory) can do the same.
	How did you calculate source apportionment	Emissions source apportionment using the LAEI. Concentrations source apportionment was carried out using LAEI emissions and Ricardo's RapidAir dispersion model.
	For this example, Ealing are not required by LAQM (if they were outside of London) to complete an AQS, as they do have a borough wide AQMA. What are the benefits of producing two separate documents that have a high level of cross over? From the presentation the process of completing the AQS has been very similar to LAQM guidance to producing an AQAP, therefore is there not a risk of duplicating work and information?	The Air Quality Strategy was designed to be an explicitly public-facing document that could act as a one stop shop for air quality information in Ealing, aimed at residents with no prior understanding of the issue. Much of the work on the AQAP was carried out in parallel, but the AQS was able to provide both longer-term goals and goals not relating to LAQM.
	To what extent should climate change / biodiversity feature in an AQS - is this local authority dependent on priorities etc?	Contents of an AQS will vary based on LA priorities as you say. We recommend that climate change and biodiversity are at the minimum referenced in an air quality strategy, and that measures in the air quality strategy should be aligned with council plans in these areas.
	is there a requirement to report progress to DEFRA on implementing an AQ strategy? and does the council report corporately their progress and performance as they would	I've found that this varies between councils – the Ealing AQS includes a section describing Ealing's commitments with regards monitoring and evaluation. I recommend contacting the LAQM helpdesk for information.



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	with other strategies they have adopted?	
	If / when our final AQMA is revoked, how long should an AQS take to prepare?	Defra will advise on expected timescales – I recommend contacting the LAQM helpdesk for information.