

Local Authority:	<b>Torbay Borough Council</b>
Reference:	<b>ASR25-2721</b>
Date of issue	<b>July 2025</b>

## Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

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

TBC currently does not have any declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). A draft Air Quality Strategy has been produced which will describe the Council's approach to reducing the impact of air pollution.

TBC did not undertake any automatic monitoring during 2024. They did however undertake passive diffusion tube monitoring of NO<sub>2</sub> at 16 monitoring locations. There were no exceedances of the annual mean objective for NO<sub>2</sub> at any of the diffusion tube sites. The highest 2024 NO<sub>2</sub> concentration was noted at site DT11, at 35.9 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. From 2023-2024, there has been a general decrease in annual NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations from the non-automatic sites within this period, with an exception at site DT08, DT11, DT12, DT18.

QA/QC procedures have been applied appropriately and accurately to the 2024 monitoring data. TBC used the laboratory Gradko and the preparation method 20% TEA in water. Annualisation was required for two non-automatic monitoring sites, DT17 (Bookers) and DT12 (194 Kings Ash Road). This was because these sites had data capture of between 25% and 75%. TBC applied the national bias adjustment factor of 0.84 and justification has been provided regarding the decision to apply the national factor. No diffusion tube NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring locations within Torbay required distance correction during 2024.

This ASR has not received Director of Public Health sign-off. Defra recommends that Directors of Public Health approve draft ASRs. Sign off is not a requirement, however collaboration and consultation with those who have responsibility for Public Health is expected to increase support for measures to improve air quality, with co-benefits for all. Please bear this in mind for the next annual reporting process.

TBC have highlighted three key measures in yellow in Table 2.2. These measures will be fed into UK-AIR to raise awareness amongst local communities of local authority action to improve air quality. These key measures are:

1. Air Quality Strategy
2. Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution

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3. Making greater and more accessible information available to the public and Stakeholders
4. Vegetation clearance on Hele Road

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, Torbay Borough Council should continue with the analysis presented in this submission and then submit an Annual Status Report in 2026.

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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. It should be made clearer what site was added to the monitoring network as the number of sites increased from 15 in 2023 to 16 in 2024.
2. TBC have correctly applied QA/QC protocols for annualisation and have selected an appropriate bias adjustment factor using a national factor.
3. The graphical trends showing the changes in annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations from non-automatic monitoring are well presented and accurately demonstrate the annual mean concentrations compared against the corresponding air quality objective for NO<sub>2</sub>.
4. For consistency, it is advised that a screenshot of the National Bias Adjustment Database is included to verify that the correct national bias adjustment has been used.
5. TBC has stated that the Defra Diffusion Tube Changeover Calendar was adhered to in 2024. This is commended.
6. Figures presented in the report are well-labelled, which is commended.
7. Although not a requirement, this ASR has not received Director of Health approval. It is recommended that Directors of Public Health approve draft ASRs.
8. Comments from last year's ASR have been included and addressed in this ASR. This is commended.

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

The [Air Quality Hub](#) is now run by Defra, it is a free online information and knowledge sharing resource for local authority air quality professionals. Please consider onboarding on the Air Quality Hub to access a multitude of air quality resources and be kept up to date with local authority air quality activity and air quality news.

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## Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	UKLAQMAppraisals@aecom.com

**Comments on appraisal/Further information:**