



Action Plans and the new Defra reporting process

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2016 saw the start of Defra's new annual reporting process, introduced following a 3- stage consultation and review of LAQM with the introduction of:

LAQM Policy Guidance 2016

LAQM Technical Guidance 2016



Local Authorities in England & Wales are now required to submit an **ANNUAL STATUS REPORT (ASR) by 30th June** each year

- The ASR report has replaced the previous 3-yearly LAQM reporting cycle and is required to be updated annually
- A new ASR Template with Tables Template are available on the Defra LAQM Support webpages for use in 2017
- Both the ASR document and Excel Template should be submitted to Defra via the RSW website

New Report Templates –Defra website

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Defra website page for LAQM Report Templates. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/review-and-assessment/report-templates.html>. The page header includes the Defra logo and the text "Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main navigation menu includes links for Home, About Defra, The Environment, Food and Farming, Rural and Countryside, and Wildlife and Pets. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > The Environment > Environmental quality and pollution > Air and atmosphere > Air Quality > Local air quality management > LAQM support > Homepage >. The page content is organized into three columns. The left column contains a "LAQM Support" menu with items like "Review and Assessment", "Introduction", "Report Templates", "Appraisal Checklists", "Report Submission Website", "LAQM Consultation", "Declare or Revoke AQMAs", "Good Practice", and "Tools". The middle column features a green header "Review and Assessment: Report templates" followed by an introductory paragraph, a paragraph about the 2017 templates, and a list of "LAQM Report Templates (2017)" including Annual Status Report (ASR) for England, Annual Progress Report (APR) for Scotland, Progress Report (PR) for Wales, Progress Report (PR) for Northern Ireland, and Air Quality Action Plan (excluding London). The right column has a "You may also be interested in..." section with links to Air quality information from Defra, UK-AIR, National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, Ozone monitoring and science, Air Quality Management Areas, Tools for LAQM, Frequently Asked Questions for Local Authorities, and What's New. Below this is a "For Help or problems with these pages..." section with contact information for the Helpdesk. A footer at the bottom of the page states "This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website" and includes a "More info" link and a "Got it!" button.

Local Air Quality Manag... x New Document 1... x Local Air Quality Manag... x M6 Junction 10A-11 Mill... x Environmental-Assem... x Report templates, Revie... x

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LAQM Support

Review and Assessment: Report templates

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New ASR Template



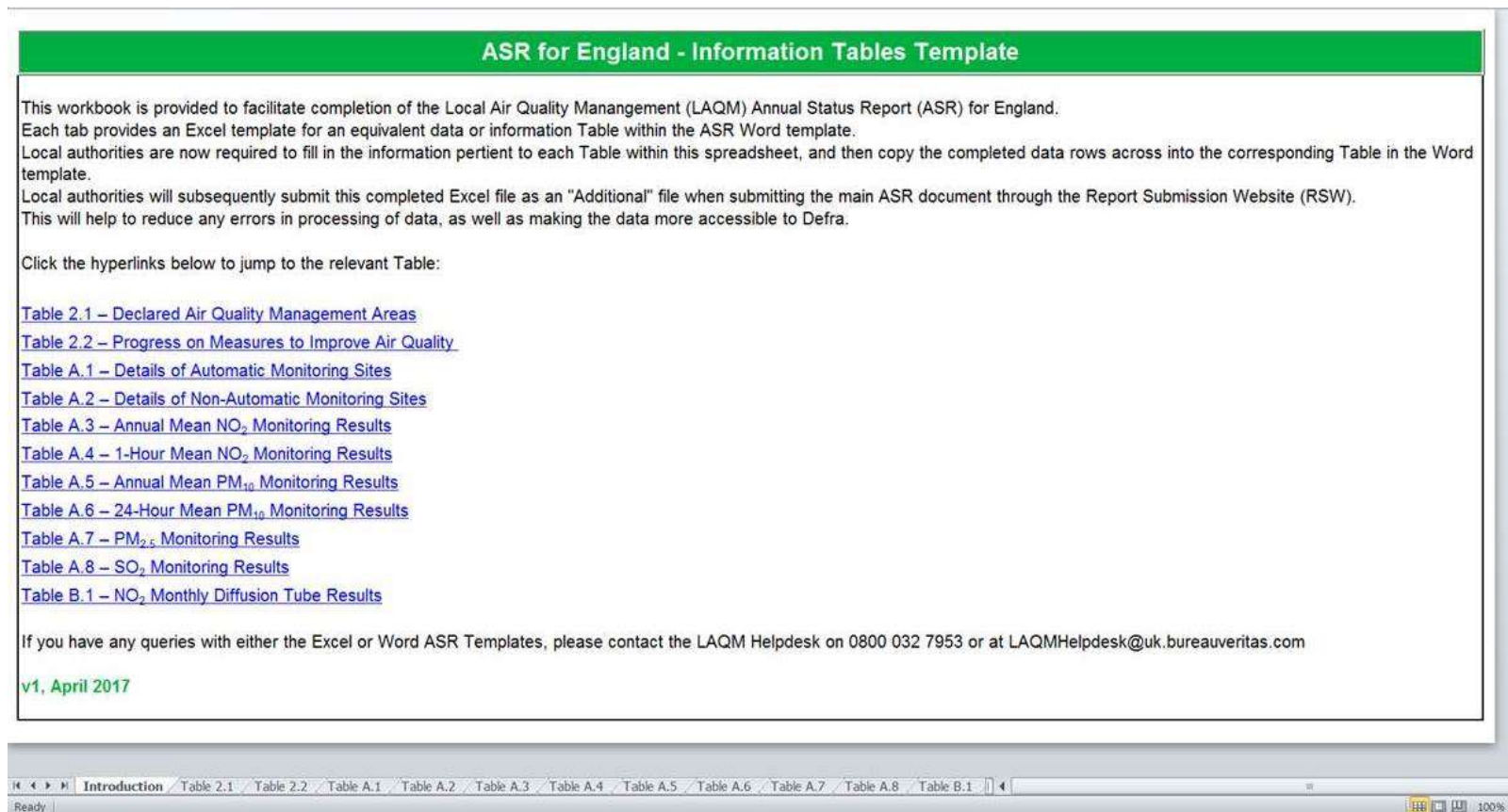
New Key Features:

- Updated to provide clarity & consistency
- Focus on status of Air Quality in AQMAs
- Is Air Quality improving?
- What do recent trends tell us?
- Are measures in AQAP's delivering results?
- Revised table 2.1- AQ evidence & action plan
- Table 2.2 AQAP progress update-give a clear statement of progress with AQAP measures

The report should make clear whether recent monitoring :

- Supports current AQMAs /or requires review of AQMA status
- Remains adequate for monitoring AQMA /or needs reviewing

New Tables Template – submit with ASR



ASR for England - Information Tables Template

This workbook is provided to facilitate completion of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Annual Status Report (ASR) for England. Each tab provides an Excel template for an equivalent data or information Table within the ASR Word template. Local authorities are now required to fill in the information pertinent to each Table within this spreadsheet, and then copy the completed data rows across into the corresponding Table in the Word template. Local authorities will subsequently submit this completed Excel file as an "Additional" file when submitting the main ASR document through the Report Submission Website (RSW). This will help to reduce any errors in processing of data, as well as making the data more accessible to Defra.

Click the hyperlinks below to jump to the relevant Table:

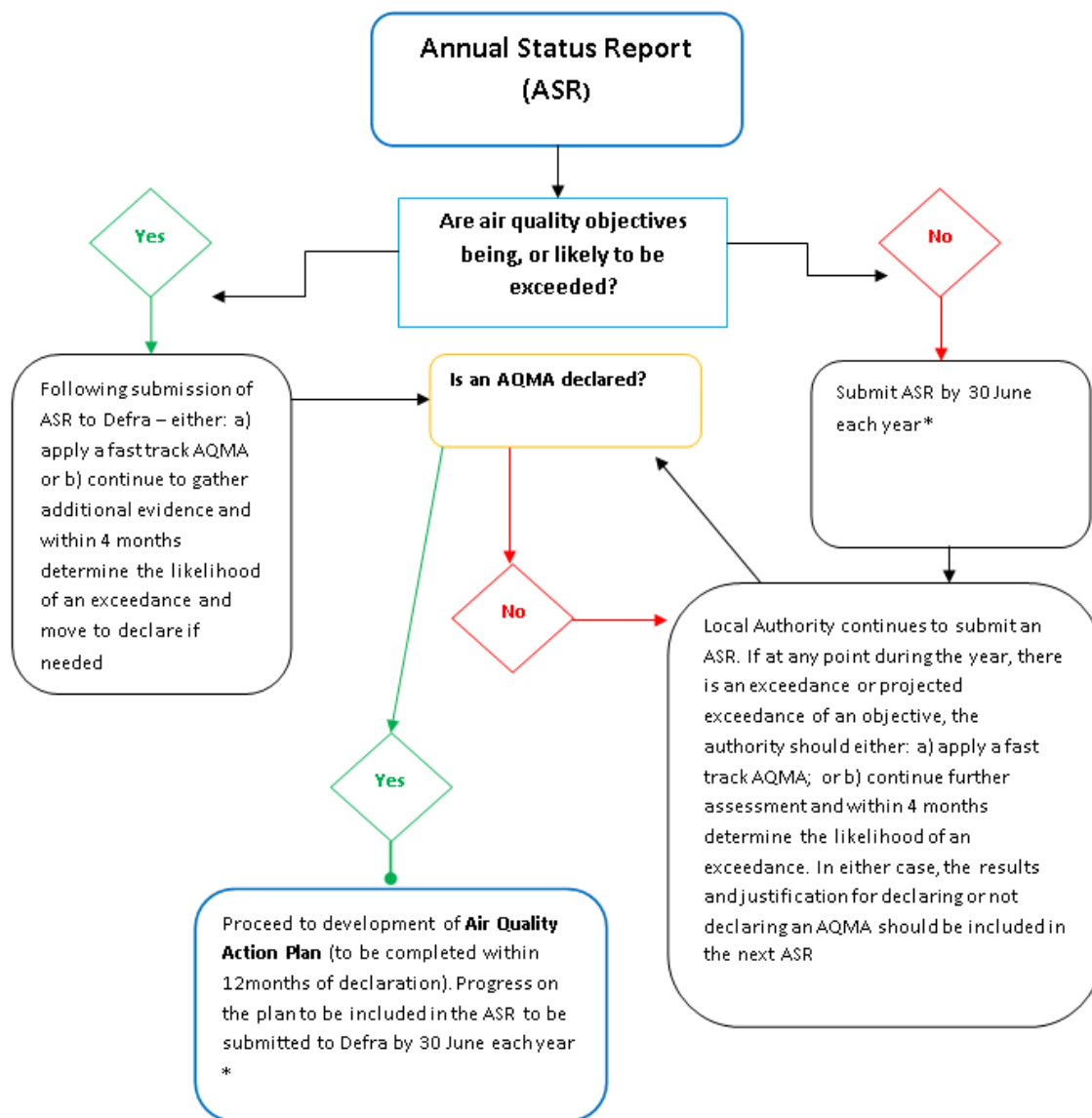
- [Table 2.1 – Declared Air Quality Management Areas](#)
- [Table 2.2 – Progress on Measures to Improve Air Quality](#)
- [Table A.1 – Details of Automatic Monitoring Sites](#)
- [Table A.2 – Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites](#)
- [Table A.3 – Annual Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results](#)
- [Table A.4 – 1-Hour Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results](#)
- [Table A.5 – Annual Mean PM₁₀ Monitoring Results](#)
- [Table A.6 – 24-Hour Mean PM₁₀ Monitoring Results](#)
- [Table A.7 – PM_{2.5} Monitoring Results](#)
- [Table A.8 – SO₂ Monitoring Results](#)
- [Table B.1 – NO₂ Monthly Diffusion Tube Results](#)

If you have any queries with either the Excel or Word ASR Templates, please contact the LAQM Helpdesk on 0800 032 7953 or at LAQMhelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

v1, April 2017

Ready | Introduction / Table 2.1 / Table 2.2 / Table A.1 / Table A.2 / Table A.3 / Table A.4 / Table A.5 / Table A.6 / Table A.7 / Table A.8 / Table B.1 | 100%

Review and Assessment Reporting Process



The ASR report is designed to focus attention on:

- Progress on the implementation of AQAP measures
- Providing a summary of local air quality-is it improving/is there evidence that objectives are due to be achieved?
- Reporting on new developments that may affect air quality
- Providing an easy to read public facing executive summary
- An annual review that can act as a focus for identifying where new strategies may be required to address AQ issues
- Is there evidence that AQAP measures effective?
- Is the monitoring programme adequate to review the status of local air quality / local AQMAs?

KEY QUESTIONS that should be addressed in every ASR

- A review of the status of every AQMA, should it be considered for amendment, extension or revocation?
- Is current monitoring strategy adequate, does it need to be reviewed?
- Is AQ improving in AQMAs, what do recent trends tell us?
- Have we clearly identified the source and nature of hotspots?
- Do measures in AQAPs address hotspots?
- Does the AQAP need reviewing?

The ASR report is designed to assist in the production of effective action plans

What does Best Practice Mean?

- LAQM TG(16) Chapter 2 details the process of developing Action Plans
- Greater focus on main sources of pollution
- Greater focus on developing evidence based AQAP's
- Acknowledging links to public health
- Fast track approach to declaring or amending AQMA's

What Makes an Effective AQAP? [TG(16) 2.09]

Key requirements for the development of an effective AQAP:

- 1) Develop the AQAP in stages;
- 2) Undertake appropriate local monitoring and assessment (source apportionment);
- 3) Decide what level of actions are required;
- 4) Establish links to other key policy areas / strategies;
- 5) Establish a Steering Group with key stakeholder groups at an early stage;
- 6) Undertake measures selection and impact assessment;
- 7) Agree monitoring and evaluation of success; and
- 8) Undertake consultation.

Steps to developing an effective AQAP include [TG(16) 2.12]:

- Engagement of key officers and stakeholders at an early stage to capture measures already in place and to develop shared ownership for local solutions
- Collation of detailed knowledge of the contributory sources, to determine the range and extent of the problem;
- An approach to consider suitable measures to reduce air pollutant emissions across a range of policy areas;
- Development of appropriate targets and indicators across key programme areas to monitor progress; and
- Evaluation and detailed consideration of further measures.

Best practice means:

- Looking at the big picture of air quality and carbon emissions from transport
- Engaging with key stakeholders at early stages in the AQAP development
- Being aware of other relevant policies, plans and strategies that can influence transport emissions
- Being aware of other developments that may impact on future transport options
- Consider the nature and extent of the AQMA, ensure that initial assessment is adequate to categorise the required level of emissions reductions to achieve AQ objectives
- Work towards integrating the AQAP with the Local Transport Plan
- Develop appropriate emissions reduction targets alongside AQAP measures

A report commissioned by Defra in 2013 considered the effectiveness of LA Action Plans (and future policy options for LAQM)

The report concluded:

Little or no quantification of the measures (in terms of reductions in emissions or concentrations) has been carried out in any precise manner.... it is difficult to estimate in any precise manner what the overall benefits have been.

Authorities have been successful in implementing a wide range of measures.... There is, however, some evidence that some major schemes have been withdrawn due to funding cuts or delays in Major Scheme Bids

There are a number of examples where the integration of the AQAP into the LTP process has proved very successful..... there has been little evidence of nitrogen dioxide concentrations declining

Summary conclusions from 2013 report to Defra

To what extent have the proposed measures in the action plan been implemented, and what have been the principal barriers/drivers to implementation?

The majority of measures identified in the Action Plan have been implemented; particularly for measures under direct local authority control.

Summary conclusions from 2013 report to Defra

To what extent have individual measures, or packages of measures, been quantified (as either emissions or concentration reductions), and has the approach been taken robust?

There is little evidence within the Action Plans reviewed that any robust quantification of the reductions due to the measures introduced has been conducted, in terms of either emissions or concentrations. The key barrier to this has been limitations in terms of cost and resources. Other issues include a lack of suitable detail of fleet composition and projections at the local level, and concerns regarding the reliability of current NO_x emissions.

Reflections on 1st year of new ASR reporting:

What's improving:

- Greater awareness of local air quality issues, and main sources of air pollution
- Greater level of public engagement on air quality
- Greater engagement with key stakeholders
- Greater development of regional approaches to AQAP's in larger urban conurbations

Reflections on 1st year of new ASR reporting:

What still needs attention? There is a need to:

- Fully review the status of AQMAs each year
- Provide adequate monitoring coverage
- Critically review the effectiveness AQAP measures
- Update AQAP measures annually, leave out measures that have not been adopted, focus on active measures
- Develop AQAP measures to target hotspots through a detailed assessment of local traffic management options

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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