

# Public Protection Partnership

## Policy Guidance: Planning for Air Quality (including Good Design Air Quality Assessments)

### Appendix 1 – Air Quality Objectives

The Air Quality Objectives are summarised on Defra's UK-AIR website, <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/uk-eu-limits>. The summary table on the National air quality objectives and European Directive limit and target values for the protection of human health is repeated below.

National air quality objectives and European Directive limit and target values for the protection of human health								
Pollutant	Applies	Objective	Concentration measured as <sup>10</sup>	Date to be achieved by and maintained thereafter	European obligations	Date to be achieved by and maintained thereafter	New or existing	
Particles (PM <sub>10</sub> )	UK	50µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24 hour mean	31 December 2004	50µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	1 January 2005	Retain existing	
	UK	40µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	annual mean	31 December 2004	40µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	1 January 2005		
	Indicative 2010 objectives for PM <sub>10</sub> (from the 2000 Strategy and 2003 Addendum) have been replaced by an exposure reduction approach for PM <sub>2.5</sub> (except in Scotland – see below)							
	Scotland	50µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 7 times a year	24 hour mean	31 December 2010			Retain existing	
	Scotland	18µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	annual mean	31 December 2010				
Particles (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) Exposure Reduction	UK (except Scotland)	25µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	annual mean	2020	Target value 25µg.m <sup>-3</sup> <sup>12</sup>	2010	New (European obligations still under negotiation)	
	Scotland	12µg.m <sup>-3</sup>		2020	Limit value 25µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	2015		
	UK urban areas	Target of 15% reduction in concentrations at urban background <sup>11</sup>		Between 2010 and 2020	Target of 20% reduction in concentrations at urban background	Between 2010 and 2020		
Nitrogen dioxide	UK	200µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1 hour mean	31 December 2005	200µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1 January 2010	Retain existing	
	UK	40µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	annual mean	31 December 2005	40µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	1 January 2010		
Ozone	UK	100µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 10 times a year	8 hour mean	31 December 2005	Target of 120µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 25 times a year averaged over 3 years	31 December 2010	Retain existing	

National air quality objectives and European Directive limit and target values for the protection of human health							
Pollutant	Applies	Objective	Concentration measured as	Date to be achieved by and maintained thereafter	European obligations	Date to be achieved by and maintained thereafter	New or existing
Sulphur dioxide	UK	266µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15 minute mean	31 December 2005			Retain existing
	UK	350µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1 hour mean	31 December 2004	350µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1 January 2005	
	UK	125µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24 hour mean	31 December 2004	125µg.m <sup>-3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	1 January 2005	
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	UK	0.25ng.m <sup>-3</sup> B[a]P	as annual average	31 December 2010	Target of 1ng.m <sup>-3</sup>	31 December 2012	Retain existing
Benzene	UK	16.25µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	running annual mean	31 December 2003			Retain existing
	England and Wales	5µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	annual average	31 December 2010	5µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	1 January 2010	
	Scotland, Northern Ireland	3.25µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	running annual mean	31 December 2010			
1,3- butadiene	UK	2.25µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	running annual mean	31 December 2003			Retain existing
Carbon monoxide	UK	10mg.m <sup>-3</sup>	maximum daily running 8 hour mean/in Scotland as running 8 hour mean	31 December 2003	10mg.m <sup>-3</sup>	1 January 2005	Retain existing
Lead	UK	0.5µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	annual mean	31 December 2004	0.5µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	1 January 2005	Retain existing
		0.25µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	annual mean	31 December 2008			

National air quality objectives and European Directive limit and target values for the protection of human health							
Pollutant	Applies	Objective	Concentration measured as	Date to be achieved by and maintained thereafter	European obligations	Date to be achieved by and maintained thereafter	New or existing
National air quality objectives and European Directive limit and target values for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems							
Nitrogen oxides	UK	30µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	annual mean	31 December 2000	30µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	19 July 2001	Retain existing in accordance with 1 <sup>st</sup> Daughter Directive
Sulphur dioxide	UK	20µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	annual mean	31 December 2000	20µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	19 July 2001	Retain existing in accordance with 1 <sup>st</sup> Daughter Directive
	UK	20µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	winter average	31 December 2000	20µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	19 July 2001	
Ozone: protection of vegetation & ecosystems	UK	Target value of 18,000µg m <sup>-3</sup> based on AOT40 to be calculated from 1 hour values from May to July, and to be achieved, so far as possible, by 2010	Average over 5 years	1 January 2010	Target value of 18,000µg m <sup>-3</sup> based on AOT40 to be calculated from 1 hour values from May to July, and to be achieved, so far as possible, by 2010	1 January 2010	New EU target

The Public Health Outcomes Framework for England includes an indicator (for health protection) of mortality associated with air pollution based on levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. <http://www.phoutcomes.info/>. The Government encourages Directors of Public Health and Local authorities to work together towards reducing emissions and concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and reduce the health burden from air pollution. A summary of the indicator and levels is detailed below.

The fraction of all-cause mortality attributable to anthropogenic particulate air pollution (measured as fine particulate matter, PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

England (2016) – 5.3%                      Bracknell Forest (2016) – 5.6%,  
West Berkshire (2016) – 5.0%              Wokingham (2016) – 5.6%

If you need any further information about air quality objectives please contact the Partnership.

**Please note there may be a charge for officers time involved in ongoing discussions, preparing for and attending meetings, and reviewing any documentation and reports.**