

IAQM Guidance on Land-use Planning and Development Control

The IAQM conduct periodic reviews of our guidance.

We recognise that currently there is considerable flux in the land-use planning landscape. For example, the Government is revisiting its planning guidance, Environmental Outcomes Reports (EOR) are likely to replace environmental statements for reporting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), and Defra is developing final guidance on the PM_{2.5} targets in the planning regime. In addition, evidence related to additional pollutants of potential concern (e.g. those used in carbon capture) has developed over recent years.

The 2017 [IAQM Guidance on Land-use Planning and Development Control](#) is now eight years old and as such there are some elements of the document that are dated and the focus of air quality assessment is changing.

A full review of the guidance is being carried out by an IAQM Working Group established specifically with regards to this guidance; with the Working Group including a representative from the [Environmental Policy Implementation Community \(EPIC\)](#). The review is considering feedback on many aspects of the guidance including:

- The appropriateness of the screening thresholds;
- The method of defining impact descriptors (Table 6.3 of the guidance); and
- Does the guidance give practitioners the right tools to allow local authorities to make informed decisions?

Outcome

The intent is to issue a fully revised guidance document (as opposed to an update) that takes account of issues raised by IAQM members.

It is clear that a focus on emission reduction will be important but the aim is also for the assessment approaches to be updated where the science supports it, and to consider the full chain from emissions, concentrations and exposure to health effects (ecological effects are considered in a separate guidance document).

Process

The IAQM Working Group has reviewed the existing guidance and identified gaps and areas which require updating. The update will be a major review considering current scientific knowledge, policy and other evidence such as case law.

Initially the Working Group is developing the contents of the updated document and will be reaching out to relevant stakeholders (such as Defra, Royal College of Physicians, the research community, etc.).

The drafting of the document will take place over the next 4-5 months with the aim to get an exposure draft to members for late summertime 2025.



Stakeholders

If you think you might be/or know a useful stakeholder group, please do let us know. We are not looking for individuals at this stage but are interested in groups who represent a relevant knowledge area for the guidance.

Current stakeholders include (but are not limited to):

- Defra
- Royal College of Physicians
- The Health Impact Assessment community

Next steps

Further updates on the guidance development will be shared when available via the IAQM website. Please do keep an eye on the IAQM Updates.

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch regarding stakeholders, please get in contact with the IAQM Committee via info@iaqm.co.uk.