

IAQM Guidance on the Assessment of Mineral Dust Impacts for Planning

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, the advent of low-cost sensors for measuring PM is altering the information landscape.

The 2016 [IAQM Guidance on the Assessment of Mineral Dust Impacts for Planning](#) is now nine years old and as such there are some elements of the document that are dated and the focus of assessment is changing.

A full review is being carried out by an IAQM Working Group established specifically with regards to this guidance. The review is considering feedback on many aspects including:

- The role of PM_{2.5}, and more guidance on health impacts in addition to nuisance:
- Increased application of dispersion modelling:
- Application of low-cost sensors in PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ measurement; and
- Respirable Crystalline Silica

Outcome

The intent is to issue an updated guidance document still applying the same risk assessment concept, but that also takes account of the issues raised by members, and the legal and technological changes.

Process

The IAQM working group have 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 are developing the contents of the updated document and will be reaching out to relevant stakeholders (such as Defra, the Mineral Products Association, Royal Town Planning Institute, the research community).

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 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
- EPIC – who represent some of the local authorities
- Mineral Products Association
- 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.