

Delivering Cleaner Air for Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Air quality PM2.5 targets: consultation response options

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Redacted Information – Articles 5(1)(a) and 6(1)(f) of UKGDPR

Overview

- Context and legislative background
- Evidence-informed policy development
- Consultation proposals
- Consultation response
- Policy options
- Decisions on:
 - consultation response; and
 - target regulations prior to laying

Context – ambient air quality in Wales

Background

- Air pollution is a local, regional and international issue
- Framework for air quality policy in Wales, and the UK:
 - Governed by a mixture of evolving domestic and international legislation
 - Legislation broadly covers:
 - **Pollutant concentration targets;**
 - UK emissions reduction targets;
 - Cross-sector source control; and
 - Local air quality management
- Multi-sectoral levers, devolved and reserved powers
- General long-term decline in emissions of pollutants since 1970s – with the exception of ammonia
- Pressures:
 - Public health and health inequalities
 - Natural environment



Legislative background

Environment (Air Quality & Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024

National air quality target-setting framework

- Duty to set at least one target for PM_{2.5} by 14 February 2027
- Duty to set a long-term target in respect of one of: NH₃; PM₁₀; O₃; NO₂; CO; and SO₂ by 14 February 2030
- Powers to enable Ministers to set long-term air quality targets

Legislative background

Environment (Air Quality & Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024:

National air quality target-setting framework

- Target-setting framework process requires Welsh Ministers:
 - To have regard to:
 - **scientific knowledge;**
 - **independent expert advice; and**
 - **the most recent WHO air quality guidelines for a pollutant when setting or reviewing a target for that pollutant**
 - Before setting or amending a target, **be satisfied the target can be met**
 - To monitor progress towards targets and publish associated data
 - To review targets set and publish a statement about steps to be taken as a consequence of the review every 5 years
 - To maintain the target standards once the target level and date have been reached and put in place reporting arrangements

Expert multi-disciplinary advice

[illegible][illegible]

Consultation target proposals: UK context

WHO PM2.5 guideline levels (µg/m³, annual mean)		Jurisdiction	PM _{2.5} level (µg/m³, annual mean)	Type	Deadline	Notes
Interim target 1	35	England	10	Legal target	2040	Statutory target
Interim target 2	25		35% cf 2018	Exposure reduction	2040	Statutory target
Interim target 3	15		10	Interim target (EIP)	2030	Non-binding
Interim target 4	10		30% cf 2018	Interim target (EIP)	2030	Non-binding
Guideline level	5	Scotland	10	Local air quality objective [information redacted]	[information redacted]	[information redacted]
		NI (proposal)	10	Amended limit value	2028	Statutory target
			8	Amended target value	2028	Statutory target - less stringent requirements
Redacted information – Regulation 12 (4) (e) – internal communications		Wales (proposal)	10	Legal target	2035	Statutory target
			25% cf 2019	Exposure reduction	2035	Statutory target

[information redacted]

Redacted information – Regulation 12 (4) (d) and (e) -
Unfinished, incomplete and internal communication

[information redacted]

Redacted information – Regulation 12 (4) (d) and (e) -
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Decisions

- Proceed to publish the consultation summary of responses and WG response
 - *[information redacted]* Information Redacted – Regulation 12 (4)(e)
– Internal Communications
 - *[information redacted]*
 - Retain provisions to subtract natural source contribution to target exceedance, where appropriate. Consistent with existing and EU legislation
 - Inclusion of the agreed policy position within the WG response
- Publication of the draft regulations
 - If policy changes are required, agreement to the updating of the draft regulations
 - Agreement to lay the regulations *[information redacted]* with a Plenary debate on *[information redacted]*

Next steps

PM2.5 target proposals

Redacted Information – Regulation 12 (4)(e) – Internal Communications

- Publish consultation summary and government response in summer 2026
 - Reflect any potential changes to the proposals within the response, as agreed by CMRRS
- *[information redacted]*, seek CMRSS agreement to lay regulations
- *[information redacted]*
 - Work with Legal Services to amend draft regulations – assess and rework impact assessments
- *[information redacted]*
 - Work with Legal Services to scope interim target options and the potential amendments to the draft PM2.5 target regulations
- Seek CMRRS agreement to laying regulations *[information redacted]* and Plenary debate *[information redacted]*, prior to the statutory deadline of 14 February 2027

Appendix - supplementary slides

Supplementary slides

[information redacted]

Redacted information – Regulation 12 (4) (d) and (e) -
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