Air Quality Monitoring at Dublin Airport: Q1-Q3 2015

HSSE Department
Table of Contents

Glossary .................................................................................................................................................. 2
Executive Summary ................................................................................................................................. 4

1. Introduction ........................................................................................................................................ 5
   1.1. Background ................................................................................................................................. 5
   1.2. Aims and Objectives ..................................................................................................................... 5

2. Monitoring Locations .......................................................................................................................... 6
   2.1. Locations of Monitoring Sites ...................................................................................................... 6

3. Description of Parameters and Sampling Methodology ....................................................................... 7
   3.1. Passive Sampling: Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) & Benzene (C₆H₆) ..................................................... 7
   3.2. Onsite Sampling: Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) .................................................................................. 7
   3.3. Onsite Sampling: Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) ................................................................................. 7

4. Community Monitoring Results .......................................................................................................... 8
   4.1. Average Monthly NO₂ Concentrations ......................................................................................... 8

5. On-site Airport Monitoring Station Results .......................................................................................... 10
   5.1. Daily Average NO₂ ..................................................................................................................... 10
   5.2. Daily average PM₁₀ ..................................................................................................................... 11

6. Results Summary .................................................................................................................................. 12

Table 1: Community ambient air monitoring locations
Table 2: Air Quality Limit and Target Values as set out by CAFÉ Directive and S.I. No. 180 of 2011
Figure 1: Map of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Locations for Dublin Airport
Figure 2: Average Monthly NO₂ Concentrations 2015
Figure 3: Average Monthly Benzene (C₆H₆) Concentrations 2015
Figure 4: Daily Average NO₂ 2015
Figure 5: Daily Average PM₁₀ 2015
Glossary

**Abbreviation Definition**

- **EPA**: Environmental Protection Agency
- **NO**: Nitrogen Oxide
- **NO₂**: Nitrogen Dioxide
- **NOₓ**: Oxides of Nitrogen
- **PM₁₀**: Airborne Particulate Matter of particle size less than 10 microns in diameter.
- **C₆H₆**: Benzene
- **AQIH**: Air Quality Index for Health

**Version Control:**

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<th>Issue No</th>
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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of air quality at Dublin Airport and surrounding environs for the first three quarters of 2015, based on data obtained from the onsite monitoring station and diffusion tube monitoring in the surrounding areas. This includes the following parameters: nitrogen dioxide (NO₂); particulate matter (PM₁₀) and benzene (C₆H₆).

da provides extensive ambient air monitoring at Dublin Airport and the surrounding area. daa operate an air monitoring station on site at the airport and carry out diffusion tube monitoring in the surrounding areas. A list of these locations is presented in table 1.1 and Figure 1 enclosed within this report.

For comparison purposes the Ambient Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI 180 of 2011) are referenced. The Air Quality Standards Regulations do not require individual companies or operators to carry out air monitoring or compare the results with limit values specified in the Air Quality Standards Regulations. Monitoring for compliance with the Regulations is the responsibility of local authorities and is supervised by the competent authority under the Regulations, the EPA.

The results from each monitoring location are well below the ambient standards and are typical of urban and inter-urban areas. For national monitoring results carried out by the EPA and local authorities and information relating to air quality please visit www.epa.ie. Up-to-date information including the Air Quality Index for Health is available at www.airquality.epa.ie
1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Dublin Airport is Ireland’s busiest international airport, handling almost 22 million passengers in 2014. Dublin Airport covers a significant area of land in North Dublin, approximately two and a half thousand acres and is bounded on two sides by two of the busiest highways in the country – the M1 and the M50.

A list of the current ambient air quality sampling locations is given in Table 1. The spatial relationships of the sampling locations to the airport are indicated on a local area map in Figure 1.

1.2. Aims and Objectives

The aim is to monitor concentrations of air parameters around the airport. The results of the daa monitoring programme are compared with the limit values contained within the Regulations as a means of illustrating the general air quality at each location and not as a measure of compliance.

The parameters monitored were as follows:

- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) using the automatic Dublin Airport Station
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Benzene (C₆H₆) using diffusion tubes at 9 locations
2. Monitoring Locations

A list of the ambient air quality sampling locations for 2015 is given in Table 1. The spatial relationships of the sampling locations to the airport are indicated on a local area map in Section 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Measurement Method</th>
<th>Parameters Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-site¹</td>
<td>West of Castlemoate Road, Dublin Airport</td>
<td>Continuous analysers</td>
<td>Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Forrest Little Golf Club</td>
<td>Passive Tubes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Kilreesk Lane, St. Margaret’s</td>
<td>Passive Tubes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3²</td>
<td>Ridgewood Estate West, Swords</td>
<td>Passive Tubes</td>
<td>Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Benzene (C₆H₆)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>St. Margaret’s School &amp; Parish House</td>
<td>Passive Tubes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Fire Station, Huntstown, Dublin Airport</td>
<td>Passive Tubes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6</td>
<td>Southern Boundary Fence, Dublin Airport</td>
<td>Passive Tubes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A7</td>
<td>Western Boundary Fence, Dublin Airport</td>
<td>Passive Tubes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A8</td>
<td>St. Nicholas of Myra School, Malahide Road</td>
<td>Passive Tubes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A9</td>
<td>Naomh Mearnóg GAA Club, Portmarnock</td>
<td>Passive Tubes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A10</td>
<td>Oscar Papa Site, Portmarnock</td>
<td>Passive Tubes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Air Monitoring Station located in the vicinity of a construction compound.
² Ceased sampling due to unauthorised removal.
2.1. Locations of Monitoring Sites

Figure 1: Map of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Locations for Dublin Airport
3. Description of Parameters and Sampling Methodology

3.1. Passive Sampling: Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) & Benzene (C₆H₆)

da operates a network of passive diffusion tube samplers for nitrogen dioxide and benzene. The intent of this network is to establish the wider spatial pattern of NO₂ and C₆H₆ concentrations in the area surrounding the Airport. The locations of the monitoring sites are shown in Figure 1 and are described in Table 1.1. The diffusion tubes are exposed for approximately 4-week intervals. The tubes are then analysed using UV Spectrophotometry at a UKAS accredited laboratory. The diffusion tubes record monthly mean concentrations, which have been averaged to give the mean. The results are expressed in µg/m³.

3.2. Onsite Sampling: Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Monitoring of NO₂ was carried out on a continuous basis at the airport monitoring location between January and early September 2015. Measurement of NO₂ was carried out, using a Horiba APNA-370 ambient NOx monitor which employs a cross-flow modulated chemiluminescence method.

Note: In early September 2015 the NOx monitor developed a fault at which point it stopped operating. The repair was completed on October 6th, meaning that the airport was unable to measure or record the NO₂ levels at the station during that period.

3.3. Onsite Sampling: Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter equal to or less than 10µm was monitored using the onsite continuous analyser on a continuous basis at the airport monitoring location between January and September 2015. The Met One Instruments automatically measures and records airborne particulate concentration levels using the principle of beta ray attenuation. The sampler draws a measured volume of air through a chamber containing a pre-conditioned and pre-weighed filter according to USEPA protocol for PM₁₀ sampling. The results are expressed in µg/m³.
4. Community Monitoring Results

The diffusion tubes record monthly mean concentrations, which have been averaged to give the Q1-Q3 mean.

4.1 Average Monthly NO\textsubscript{2} Concentrations

![Average Monthly NO\textsubscript{2} Concentrations from January to September 2015](image)

Figure 2: Average Monthly NO\textsubscript{2} Concentrations 2015 Q1-Q3
4.2 Average Monthly Benzene Concentrations

Average Monthly Benzene Concentrations from January to September 2015

Figure 3: Average Monthly Benzene (C₆H₆) Concentrations 2015 Q1-Q3
5. On-site Airport Monitoring Station Results

5.1. Daily Average NO$_2$

The 2015 Q1-Q3 average nitrogen dioxide concentration measured at the automatic station in Dublin Airport was 22.9 µg/m$^3$ (microgrammes per cubic metre).

Table 2: Air Quality Limit and Target Values as set out by CAFÉ Directive and S.I. No. 180 of 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Averaging Period</th>
<th>Limit or Threshold Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO$_2$ Limit Value</td>
<td>Calendar Year</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Daily average NO$_2$: Year to Date 2015](image)

Average: 22.9 µg/m$^3$

NOx Monitor down, repaired Oct 6th

Figure 4: Daily Average NO$_2$ 2015
5.2. Daily average PM\textsubscript{10}

The 2015 Q1-Q3 average particulate matter concentration measured at the automatic station in Dublin Airport was 20.9 µg/m\textsuperscript{3} (microgrammes per cubic metre). The 2015 Q1-Q3 daily value did not surpass the number of allowed exceedances as per the Ambient Air Quality Regulations.

Table 3: Air Quality Limit and Target Values as set out by CAFÉ Directive and S.I. No. 180 of 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Averaging Period</th>
<th>Limit or Threshold Value</th>
<th>No. of Allowed Exceedances</th>
<th>No. of Exceedances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PM\textsubscript{10} Limit Value</td>
<td>One day</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Not to be exceeded on more than 35 days per year</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM\textsubscript{10} Limit Value</td>
<td>Calendar Year</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Daily average PM\textsubscript{10} Year to Date 2015](image)

Average: 20.9 µg/m\textsuperscript{3}

Figure 5: Daily Average PM\textsubscript{10} 2015
6. Results Summary

The results of the NO$_2$ and PM$_{10}$ concentrations using the online analyser indicate concentrations are below the relevant long-term (annual) limit value of 40μg/m$^3$ and within the allowed criteria of short term limit values.

The diffusion tube results for NO$_2$ indicate that the highest concentrations are recorded adjacent to the main roads around the airport. The monitoring locations are only a few metres from the road and therefore pick up on roadside concentrations which are close to the vehicular emission source. Concentrations further away from the roadways are much lower and similar to the concentrations recorded at the on-site station. All concentrations are below the annual average limit value for NO$_2$.

In comparison with the relevant legislation, S.I. No. 180 of 2011 Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011, the levels of benzene detected at all locations are within the yearly average limit value of 5μg/m$^3$.

The EPA is the designated Competent Authority in Ireland for the co-ordination of ambient air quality monitoring in accordance with EU Directive. The Environmental Protection Agency’s Air Quality Index for Health (AQIH) is a number from one to 10 that tells you what the air quality currently is in your region and whether or not this might affect the health of you or your child. A reading of 10 means the air quality is very poor and a reading of one to three inclusive means that the air quality is good. The AQIH is calculated every hour. You can see the current readings on the AQIH map. Reference: EPA (2014)