

Air Quality Policy Overview

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Disclaimer

- This presentation is delivered during the election period
- Only factual information about current Government policies can be presented
- Future Government policies are of course, a matter for future Governments

Outline

- Overview
- Air Quality Strategy: Evaluation and Review
- Local Air Quality Management
- Update on other policies

Overview

- The next few years will be a crucial time for air quality management at all levels:
 - Internationally
 - Nationally
 - Locally

Internationally

- EU Thematic Strategy and Review of Air Quality Daughter Directives
- Other sectoral Directives are coming or may come (Marine Fuel, Euro-standards, Small combustion plant?)
- Review of National Emission Ceiling Directive

Nationally

- Periodic Review of Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as required in Environment Act 1995
- White Papers on Transport and Aviation
- Review of UK Climate Change Programme

Locally

- Third Round of the Local Air Quality Management system
- Second Round of Local Transport Plans
- Integration of Air Quality Action Plans in Local Transport Plans

All this while....

- Compliance dates for European, national and local objectives are increasingly becoming live
- There is a rapidly growing public interest in air quality issues, its health effects, management actions and their impacts on people's life

Evaluation of Air Quality Strategy

- Published earlier this year
- Focus on assessment of impacts and effectiveness of air quality policies
- Important to understand what has been delivered before the Air Quality Strategy is reviewed again

Evaluation of Air Quality Strategy

- Between 1990 and 2001 in two sectors (transport and electricity supply industry*):
 - 96%-77%* reduction in emission for SO₂
 - 48%-78%* reduction in emission for PM₁₀
 - 100,000 total life year saved p/a
 - 4,225 total death brought forward avoided p/a

Evaluation of Air Quality Strategy

- An analysis of individual ex ante and ex post costs showed that in most cases the ex ante costs were overestimates
- The report lead to the conclusion that legislation itself acts as a spur to research and innovation

Air Quality Strategy Review: Main Drivers

- Move closer to the objectives and,,,
- ... generate cost effective health benefits across the whole country
- The two are not always pushing in the same direction in term of measures

Air Quality Strategy Review: Main Drivers

- Assess air quality impacts and cost and benefits of potential additional measures to improve air quality up to 2020
- Review individual health and ecosystem objectives
- For non threshold pollutants, consider the cost and benefits of the “exposure reduction approach” as a complementary framework to air quality objectives

Air Quality Strategy Review

So far the work:

1. has developed an updated baseline
2. is assessing cost and benefits of a number of additional measures
3. has started to consider potential “exposure reduction” objectives for particles and their impacts

Scope of AQS Review

As discussed at the Air Quality Forum, additional measures assessed include:

- I New Euro Standards for all vehicles
- II Programme of incentives for early uptake of new Euro Standards
- III Programme of incentives to phase out older vehicles (e.g. pre-Euro)
- IV Programme of incentives to increase penetration of low emission vehicles
- V Impact of road user charging schemes on air quality
- VI Measures to reduce NO_x, VOC, SO₂ emissions from industrial processes
- VII Measures to reduce domestic and commercial emissions
- VIII Low Emission Zone in large urban areas
- IX Measures to reduce emissions from small combustion plants
- X Measures to reduce emissions from ships
- XI Some combinations of the above measures

Questions to be addressed

- Which further measures to implement?
- Which metric(s) for objective on particles (PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5} or both)?
- Should we set “exposure reduction” objectives this time around?
- If so, should they apply to LAQM or just national level?

Next steps for Review

- Stakeholder workshop scheduled for 24th May 05
- Formal public consult around summer 05
- Finalise by end 05

LAQM

- LAs with AQMAs:
 - England 99
 - London 31
 - Scotland 3
 - Wales 4
 - N Ireland 8
 - **Total 145**

Conclusions

- The next few years will be very a crucial time for air quality management
- New, complementary framework for air quality management is being considered in EU
- Outcome of CAFÉ will be key
- Air Quality Strategy Review is progressing