

Welsh Air Quality Forum Annual Seminar

27 October 2022

Presentation by Welsh Government

Presenters

Rhian Williams, Bill
Manager, update on
Clean Air (Wales) Bill

Eloise Procter, Senior
Clean Air Policy and
Legislation Manager,
update on TAN 11.

Roger Herbert, Head of
Air Quality Monitoring,
Evidence and
Assessment, update on
target setting.

CLEAN AIR (WALES) BILL

What are the aims of the
legislation?

First Minister's Legislative Statement

“A clean Air Bill is a significant priority for this Government. We want to build on action already under way to reduce emissions and deliver vital improvements in air quality, supporting healthier communities and better environments. Our White Paper set out how we intend to enable ambitious air quality targets and put in place a more robust regulatory framework to support them. This will be accompanied by measures to make sure all parts of society play their part in reducing air pollution, and I look forward to working with Members across the Chamber to develop that Bill once it is introduced”.

Bill Timings

Introduced before Summer recess 2023.



Passage through the Senedd – summary of process



From introduction to Royal Assent – generally takes 9 to 10 months.

The Clean Air (Wales) Bill

What do we propose to cover?

Target Setting
Framework

Clean Air Plans

Local Air Quality
Management

Smoke Control

Vehicle Anti-idling

Better Enabling
Clean Air and Low
Emission Zones

Promoting
Awareness

LAQM Support Fund

Scheme criteria

- Scheme criteria: bids that meet one or more of the following:
 - **Prevention** – action that seeks to improve air quality and prevent worsening of concentrations and/or an exceedance of legal limits.
 - **Mitigation** – action that seeks to improve air quality in an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).
 - **Innovation** – action using innovative methods or technologies to improve air quality and/or reduce exposure.
- Designed to support preventative and innovative action beyond compliance with air quality objectives.

Pilot scheme approach (2021 – 2023 FY)

First mini-round (October 2021 – March 2022):

- Last year made over £355k available to three local authorities across a varied range of projects.
- Project updates published in the Air Quality in Wales 2021 report

Second mini-round (October 2022 – March 2023):

- Revenue only due to budget availability (£750k).

Next steps

- Pilot scheme rounds will be evaluated to inform full launch next year (full financial year)
- Invitation to local authorities and other stakeholders to help evaluate and shape the design of the scheme.

Update on TAN 11

13 week consultation period running from 21 October



Key points to note in updated TAN – including widened scope to include both noise and air quality considerations.



Two zoom meetings during consultation period. Details on the events section of the Institute of Acoustics website.

TARGET- SETTING FRAMEWORK





The Clean Air Plan for Wales

Healthy Air, Healthy Wales



WELSH GOVERNMENT

Programme for Government – Update

gov.wales



Number: WG41800

Welsh Government
White Paper

White Paper on a Clean Air (Wales) Bill

Making Wales a better and healthier place to live

Date of issue: 13 January 2021
Action required: Responses by 7 April 2021

Target-setting ambitions

- A new target setting framework: ability to respond to emerging evidence
- Introduce a target for fine particulate matter, the air pollutant most harmful to human health
- Provide a 'minimum' level of air quality across Wales, and drive long-term continuous improvement
- Encourage actions that are coherent with other cross-government ambitions to achieve mutual benefits
- Help tackle acute and chronic environmental and climate challenges

Target-setting background

- Legal air quality target setting is a new undertaking for Welsh Government
- Want to ensure targets are robust through an evidence led process, transparent and open to public scrutiny
- Need to account for new WHO guidelines
- Assess the ambient air quality improvements that could be made under existing and anticipated multi-pollutant and cross-sector policies in future years
- Partial analysis at a Wales level undertaken, but we need a more in depth policy scenario analyses for a wider range of years out to 2040

Target development activities



Define target purpose



Develop target metrics



Measurement, assessment and compliance reporting definitions



Feasibility – determination of effect of future policy pathways and effects on future air quality levels over time



Socio economic impact assessment



Engagement



Legislation development

Modelling objectives

To provide information on the pollutant concentrations that can be achieved, over and above BAU, through future policy pathways in order to understand which target levels and dates are likely to be feasible

To feed into impact assessments, enabling the health benefits and other co-benefits of the scenarios to be evaluated and monetised

To provide information on the main drivers of pollutants and the risks in achieving the targets to inform ministerial decision-making

Target setting: next steps

- Welsh Government developing analytical capability to underpin necessary work areas
- Engaging with sector groups winter-spring 2022/23 – on-going
- On-going engagement with expert groups, with local authority representation
- Linking national targets to local air quality
 - Although national government will be responsible for new targets, local authorities will have an important role
 - Focusing local actions on emissions e.g. of PM_{2.5} and precursors? Specific local authority focus on national targets? What are your views?
 - How can we best engage with you over the next 18-24 months to develop targets? Through representative groups, specific workshops..?



Thank you



Questions