



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Date: 21 March 2024

Dear Mr Braund

Thank you for your letter dated 7 March 2024 setting out the reasons for delay of Derbyshire Dales' Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). I appreciate the considerable effort that has gone into the production of the AQAP thus far.

However, continuous delays will impact the local authority's ability to ensure air quality objectives are achieved and maintained in the long term. Defra is committed to protecting people and the environment from the effects of air pollution. Our [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#) sets out our challenge to local authorities to improve air quality more quickly. AQAPs are a key driver for action and Derbyshire Dales District Council risks negatively impacting their communities by not having an agreed AQAP in place.

Derbyshire Dales District Council declared the Buxton Road AQMA in May 2021, for an exceedance of the NO₂ annual mean air quality objective. The [Local Air Quality Management \(LAQM\) Statutory Policy Guidance](#) states that an AQAP must be produced within 18 months of an AQMA being declared to ensure improvements to air quality can be realised as quickly as possible. This makes the AQAP 14 months overdue.

In line with the approach we are taking with all LAs, the warning process will continue. You will soon receive a final warning letter which will include a deadline for the AQAP of 21 May 2024. If the Council do not meet that date, a Secretary of State Direction will be sent to the Chief Executive specifying action.

For more information about the actions the Government expects local authorities to take in support of achieving our long-term air quality goals, please refer to the [Air Quality Strategy](#) which provides a framework to enable local authorities to make the best use of their powers.

Yours Sincerely,
Bill Parish
Deputy Director, Air Quality and Industrial Emissions
Defra