

ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIRECTION

ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995

ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995 (GREATER MANCHESTER) AIR QUALITY DIRECTION 2025

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the power conferred by section 85(5) of the Environment Act 1995(a), gives the following direction. In accordance with section 85(6) a copy of this direction will be published in the London Gazette.

The Secretary of State makes this direction having determined that it is necessary for obligations under the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 (b) are met.

Citation, commencement and application

1.—(1) This direction may be cited as the Environment Act 1995 (Greater Manchester) Air Quality Direction 2025 and comes into force on the day after it is made.

(2) This direction applies to—

- (a) Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (b) Bury Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (c) Manchester City Council;
- (d) Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (e) Rochdale Borough Council;
- (f) Salford City Council;
- (g) Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (h) Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (i) Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (j) Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council.

Interpretation

2. In this direction—

“the 2000 Act” means the Transport Act 2000(c);

“the authorities” means —

- (a) Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (b) Bury Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (c) Manchester City Council;
- (d) Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (e) Rochdale Borough Council;
- (f) Salford City Council;
- (g) Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (h) Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (i) Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council;
- (j) Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council.

(a) 1995 c25.

(b) 2010 c1001

“AQP” means the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations 2017, drawn up by the Secretary of State in accordance with regulation 26(1) of the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010(a);

“local plan for NO₂ compliance” means the detailed scheme (excluding any associated mitigation measures) which the authorities identified as part of the AQP to deliver compliance with the legal limit value for nitrogen dioxide in the shortest possible time that was considered by the Secretary of State on 22 January 2025 the approved measures of which are summarised in Schedule 1;

Duty to implement the local plan for NO₂ compliance

3.—(1) The authorities must take steps to implement the local plan for NO₂ compliance for the areas for which they are responsible.

(2) The authorities must ensure that the local plan for NO₂ compliance is implemented so that—

- (a) compliance with the legal limit value for nitrogen dioxide is achieved in the shortest possible time, and by 2026 at the latest;
- (b) exposure to levels above the legal limit for nitrogen dioxide are reduced as quickly as possible.

Variation, revocation or suspension

4. The authorities must not vary, revoke or suspend their implementation of the local plan for NO₂ compliance pursuant to Article 3, without the prior written consent of the Secretary of State.

Revocation of previous direction

5. The Environment Act 1995 (Greater Manchester) Air Quality Direction 2022(b) is revoked.

Guidance

6. The authorities, in taking steps under this direction, must have regard to relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Emma Hardy MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

04 February 2025

SCHEDULE 1

Article 2 Summary of local plan for NO₂ compliance measures

<i>Measures description</i>	<i>Deadlines</i>
As detailed in the appraisal report ‘Evidence Submission for a new GM Clean Air Plan’ of the Greater Manchester Authorities dated October 2024, and its supplement, a package of non-charging measures:	To be implemented as soon as possible and at least in time to bring forward compliance to 2026.
(i) Cleaner Buses, provision of: Euro VI buses; zero emission buses; charging infrastructure and associated support.	
(ii) Local traffic management measures at -A57 Regent Road and -A34 Quay Street/Great Bridgewater Street And additionally:	
(iii) Support for moving the hackney carriage fleet to cleaner vehicles	

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the direction)

This direction directs Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council; Bury Metropolitan Borough Council; Manchester City Council; Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council; Rochdale Borough Council; Salford City Council; Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council; Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council; Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council; Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council, for the purposes of this direction are referred to as “the authorities”, to implement its local plan for NO₂ compliance. The local plan for NO₂ compliance was considered by the Secretary of State on 22 January 2025, and the approved measures must now be implemented to ensure compliance with the legal limit value for nitrogen dioxide is achieved in the authorities’ areas in the shortest possible time. Under section 85(7) of the Environment Act it is the duty of a local authority to comply with a direction given to it. A copy of this direction is available for inspection at Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

(a) S.I. 2010/1001. A copy of the plan is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-quality-plan-for-nitrogen-dioxide-no2-in-uk-2017>.

(b) The Environment Act 1995 (Greater Manchester) Air Quality Direction 2022 is revoked. A copy of the direction is available at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/620b9b578fa8f549097b865f/](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/620b9b578fa8f549097b865f/Environment_Act_1995_Greater_Manchester_Air_Quality_Direction_2022.pdf)

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Planning

TOWN PLANNING

DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled “The Stopping up of Highway (North West) (No.4) Order 2025” authorising the stopping up of a part width of Welton Road at Bromborough, in the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral. This is to enable development as permitted by Wirral Council, under reference APP/21/01631.