

CM.dcc.JMB

Dear Councillor Milner-Barry,

Thank you for your question at Cabinet last week on my Air Quality Management Area report about whether the Council is monitoring for particulates as well as Nitrous Oxides.

The Council does not routinely monitor for particulates in Swindon. The need for monitoring is informed by screening or risk assessment based on local factors, and we do not have significant industrial or domestic sources of particulates in Swindon, such as large industrial or quarrying or large-scale domestic solid fuel heating. That said; we invested in an indicative standard particulate monitor during the Averies fire major incident, and we have deployed this monitor for periods since, as a sense check of our screening.

Officers installed the monitor on Devizes Road for a period during the winter of 2014/15, and for a longer period on Kingshill Road during 2016/17. Neither set of measurements indicated particulate pollution levels were high enough to be of concern at either location. At Devizes Road, we measured only very low particulate levels, and only over a relatively short period. At Kingshill Road, we measured for a significantly longer period. The particulate levels were around 15mcg/m³ PM₁₀ (fine particulate matter of 10 microns or less), and around 6mcg/m³ PM_{2.5} (ultrafine particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less). The measurements did not breach the thresholds on PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} throughout the monitoring period. The daily average limit criteria for PM₁₀ is 50mcg/m³, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year, and 40mcg/m³ as an annual average.

I hope this assists.

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Martyn

Councillor Cathy Martyn,
Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety

cc Steve Jones, Committee and Member Services Manager