

Ciaran Mcgoldrick

From: Martin Fitzpatrick
Sent: 14 February 2017 09:22
To: Ciaran Mcgoldrick
Subject: FW:

From: Dick Brady
Sent: 26 January 2017 14:46
To: Cllr Naoise O'Muire
Cc: Martin Fitzpatrick; Brian McManus; Nicola O'Hara
Subject:

Naoise
Below comments from Martin and Brian as requested
Regards

Dick

1. Martin Fitzpatrick's.

"There was a significant elevation in air pollution levels across Ireland and in fact across a significant part of Western Europe in recent days. In Ireland, this was particularly noticeable on 23 January. This increase is a combination of local and remote air pollution sources and specific climatic conditions such as low wind speed and thermal inversion whereby layers of cold air get trapped under layers of warm air which hampers the dissipation of pollutants .

Given the increase in wind speed over the past two days, there has been a significantly discernible improvement in air quality across the country and this can be seen on the real time reporting on the EPA website and the Air Quality for Health Index now reports air quality as "good" .

The Air Quality for Health Index operated by the Environmental Protection Agency (as referred to in the report) is a very valuable advisory tool that gives precautionary advice to the public.

While levels experienced over the day or two warranted the precautionary approach adopted by the Index, the legal limit values for air quality are predicted on such levels being experienced many more times in the course of a year.

There is however no room for complacency in this respect and the fact that we can experience climatic conditions such as these serves to remind us that we need to develop strategies that can be adopted at local, regional and national levels at such times. The Department of the Environment have committed to developing a National Clean Air Strategy and the launching of the public consultation of this initiative is eagerly awaited by all stakeholders. There is also a general acceptance that nationally we should be striving towards the World Health Organisation guideline values for air quality, and hopefully the Clean Air Strategy will take us in that direction"

2. Brian McManus.

Just to add to Martins comments, while most of the article is fair comment and lays out the background to the AQIH, the opening paragraph is not quite correct. The Health Index is based on the Highest\Worst values measured amongst all the stations and assigned the appropriate index for the whole of the region - even though a majority of the sites could be classed as 'Good'. So in this instance on the 23rd of June individually Rathmines, Tallaght and Winetavern Street were classed 'Very Poor', with the remaining sites being classed as individually 'Good' - however the whole region is classed as 'Very Poor' due to the readings at the aforementioned 3 sites. To say the 13 sites were

classed 'Very Poor' is incorrect. It would be more correct to say the Dublin Region is classed as 'Very Poor' as per the AQHI

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