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Dublin Airport Air Quality Monitoring  
Q1 2021

Sustainability Department

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May 2021



## **Dublin Airport Air Quality Monitoring Quarter 1 Report 2021**



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## Glossary

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
NO	Nitrogen Oxide
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO <sub>x</sub>	Oxides of Nitrogen
PM <sub>10</sub>	Airborne particulate Matter, particle size less than 10 micron.
AQIH	Air Quality Index for Health
The Regulations	Ambient Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011

## Version Control

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## Executive Summary

daa undertakes a programme of air quality monitoring at Dublin Airport (DAP) and in surrounding communities. Monitoring is undertaken using a stationary continuous air monitoring station located within the DAP boundary. Air quality is also monitored at 11 locations outside the airport boundary using passive diffusion tube sampling.

This report provides an overview of the results of air quality monitoring undertaken by daa at DAP and environs in Q1 2021. Air monitoring locations are listed in Table 1 and presented as Figure 1 of this report.

The Ambient Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (the Regulations), S.I. No. 180 of 2011, implement EU Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe. The Regulations are referred to in this report for comparison purposes only. There is no requirement under the Regulations for individual companies or operators to carry out air monitoring. In Ireland, compliance with the Regulations is the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is deemed to be the competent authority for the purpose of Directive 2008/50/EC. The EPA is required to submit an annual Air Quality report to the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications and to the European Commission. The latest EPA Report entitled: Air Quality in Ireland 2019, Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality was published in 2020 and is available on the [EPA website](#), the 2020 report will be published in 2021.

In collaboration with the EPA, the Dublin Airport continuous air quality monitoring station data is provided to the EPA on a continuous basis. As part of daa's transparency, daa air quality monitoring station can be viewed on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>.

This report highlights the air quality levels around Dublin Airport from January to March 2021. All levels recorded are within compliance levels. The impacts of Covid 19 is still evident at our aerodrome with a reduction of 95% in traffic and passenger numbers. This reduction in activity can be seen in the decrease in emission levels around the airport.

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Dublin Airport (DAP) is located approximately 10km north of Dublin city. The areas to the west of the airport are predominantly rural in nature. The airport is surrounded by Swords Village to the north and Santry to the south. The airport is bounded on two sides by the two busiest motorways in the country: the M1 and the M50. The M1 motorway is approximately 1km east of the current location of the airport's onsite air quality monitoring station and the M50 motorway is approximately 2.5km south of the monitoring location.

### 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present an overview of the results of air quality monitoring conducted onsite at DAP and at 11 external monitoring locations in the vicinity of the airport in Q1 2021. The Ambient Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011, S.I. No. 180 of 2011 (the Regulations), implement EU Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe. This report compares the data collected during the daa monitoring programme with limit values contained in the Regulations to assess air quality at each monitoring location.

The Regulations are referred to in this report for comparison and reference purposes only. There is no requirement under the Regulations that companies or operators shall carry out air quality monitoring. In Ireland, compliance with the Regulations is the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is deemed to be the competent authority.

A range of parameters are recorded at DAP's continuous on-site monitoring station as follows:

- Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)
- Oxides of nitrogen NO<sub>x</sub> (NO and NO<sub>2</sub>)
- Carbon monoxide (CO)
- Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)
- Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>)

Diffusion tube samplers located in communities surrounding the airport monitor the following gases:

- Sulphur dioxide
- Nitrogen dioxide
- Benzene
- Ethylbenzene
- m- and p-Xylene
- o-Xylene
- Toluene
- Ozone

The results of air quality monitoring for all of the above parameters are reviewed by daa on a continuous basis.

To date and in line with air quality reporting at many airports, daa has focussed reporting on the most important parameters:

- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) at the DAP automatic station; and
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Benzene using diffusion tubes at 11 offsite locations.

## 2.0 Monitoring Locations

A list of the ambient air quality sampling locations is presented in Table 1. Sampling locations are presented as Figure 1.

Ref	Location	Method	Parameter
<b>On-site</b>	Dublin Airport.	Continuous analyser <sup>1</sup>	<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b> <b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>
<b>A1</b>	Forrest Little Golf Club.	Passive Tubes	<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b> <b>Benzene</b>
<b>A2</b>	Kilreesk Lane, St. Margaret's.	Passive Tubes	
<b>A3</b>	Ridgewood Estate West, Swords.	Passive Tubes	
<b>A4</b>	St. Margaret's School and Parish	Passive Tubes	
<b>A5</b>	Fire Station, Huntstown, Dublin Airport.	Passive Tubes	
<b>A6</b>	Southern Boundary Fence, Dublin	Passive Tubes	
<b>A7</b>	Western Boundary Fence, Dublin Airport	Passive Tubes	
<b>A8</b>	St. Nicholas of Myra School, Malahide Road.	Passive Tubes	
<b>A9</b>	Naomh Mearnóg GAA Club, Portmarnock.	Passive Tubes	
<b>A10</b>	Oscar Papa Site, Portmarnock.	Passive Tubes	
<b>A11</b>	Dublin Airport Bus Depot	Passive Tubes	

**Table 1** Community Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Locations



**Figure 1** Air Quality Monitoring Locations



### **3.0 Parameters and Sampling Methodology**

#### **3.1 Offsite Passive Sampling:**

##### **3.1.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Benzene (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>)**

daa has installed a network of passive diffusion tube samplers in areas surrounding the airport. Monitoring locations are shown on Figure 1 and listed in Table 1. The diffusion tubes are exposed for approximately 4-week intervals and record monthly mean concentrations. Monthly mean concentrations are averaged to give an annual mean, presented in Figure 2. The tubes are analysed using UV Spectrophotometry at a UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) accredited laboratory. Results are expressed in µg/m<sup>3</sup> (micrograms per cubic metre).

#### **3.2 Onsite Sampling**

##### **3.2.1 Equipment Calibration**

An external expert service provider undertakes routine servicing of the DAP air quality monitoring equipment on a monthly basis. The monitoring station undergoes a full service twice yearly. During monthly visits, air filters are replaced, and the instruments are calibrated to EPA gas standards. The technician also inspects the functionality of the station and sampling system. An emergency call out service is also provided by the service provider. The monthly calibration process takes approximately 24 hours, data collection resumes after this 24-hour period. In Q1 2021, due to down times during calibration and equipment malfunction in our NO<sub>2</sub> equipment, 71% of NO<sub>2</sub> data was captured, the capture of PM<sub>10</sub> data was approximately 97%.

##### **3.2.2 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)**

Onsite monitoring of NO<sub>2</sub> is carried out on a continuous basis at the stationary airport monitoring station. Measurement of NO<sub>2</sub> is carried out using a Horiba APNA-370 ambient NO<sub>x</sub> monitor which employs a cross-flow modulated chemiluminescence method.

### **3.2.3 Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>)**

PM<sub>10</sub> is defined as airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter equal to or less than 10µm. PM<sub>10</sub> is monitored on a continuous basis at the airport monitoring station. This PM<sub>10</sub> instrument automatically measures and records airborne particulate concentration levels using the principle of beta ray attenuation. The sampler monitors the PM<sub>10</sub> content of air by drawing a measured volume of air through a chamber containing a pre-conditioned and pre-weighed filter in accordance with the internationally accepted US EPA protocol for PM<sub>10</sub> sampling. The results are expressed in µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### 4.0 Monitoring Results

#### 4.1 Offsite NO<sub>2</sub> Monitoring Results

Figure 2 presents the annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentration for each location based on the monthly passive tube sampling. As can be seen from Figure 2, the annual mean values were below the limit value of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>

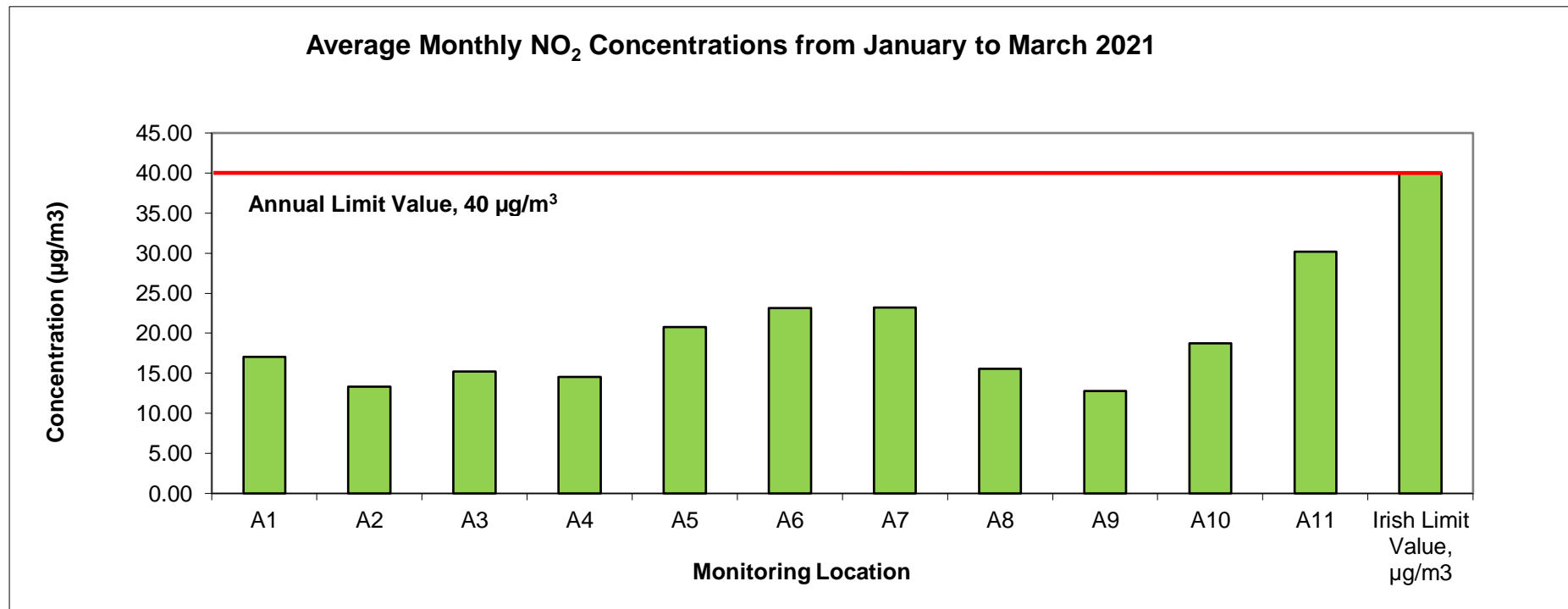


Figure 2 Average Monthly NO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations Q1 2021

### 4.2 Offsite Benzene Monitoring Results

Figure 3 presents the annual mean Benzene concentration for each location based on the monthly passive tube sampling. The Regulations mandate an annual mean limit value of 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for Benzene. As can be seen from Figure 3, the annual mean values were below the limit value of 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and less than 1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> at all monitoring locations.

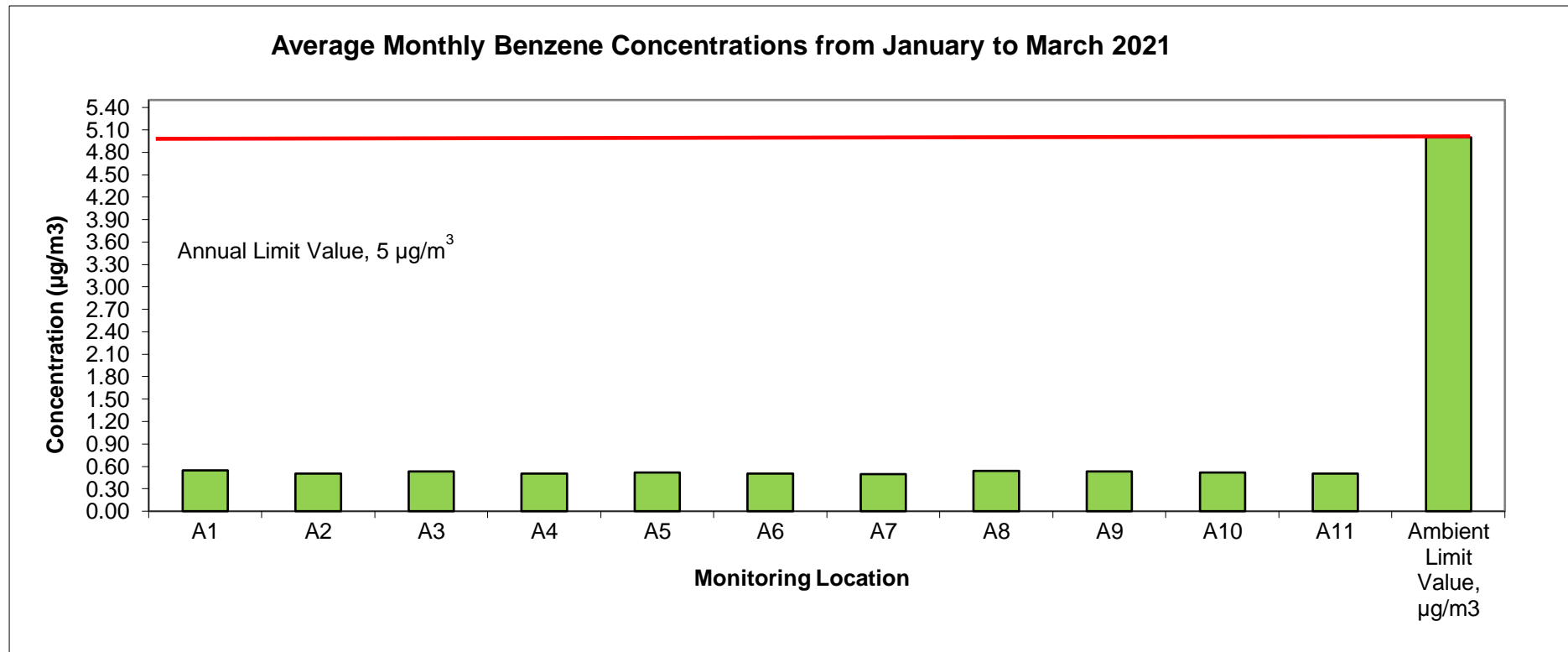


Figure 3 Average Monthly Benzene (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>) Concentrations Q1 2021

### 5.0 On-site Airport Monitoring Station Results

#### 5.1 On-site Airport Monitoring Station Results: Daily Average NO<sub>2</sub>

NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are measured at the automatic station at Dublin Airport. Figure 4 presents the daily average NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations measured during Q1 2021. The equivalent daily average was calculated as 20 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

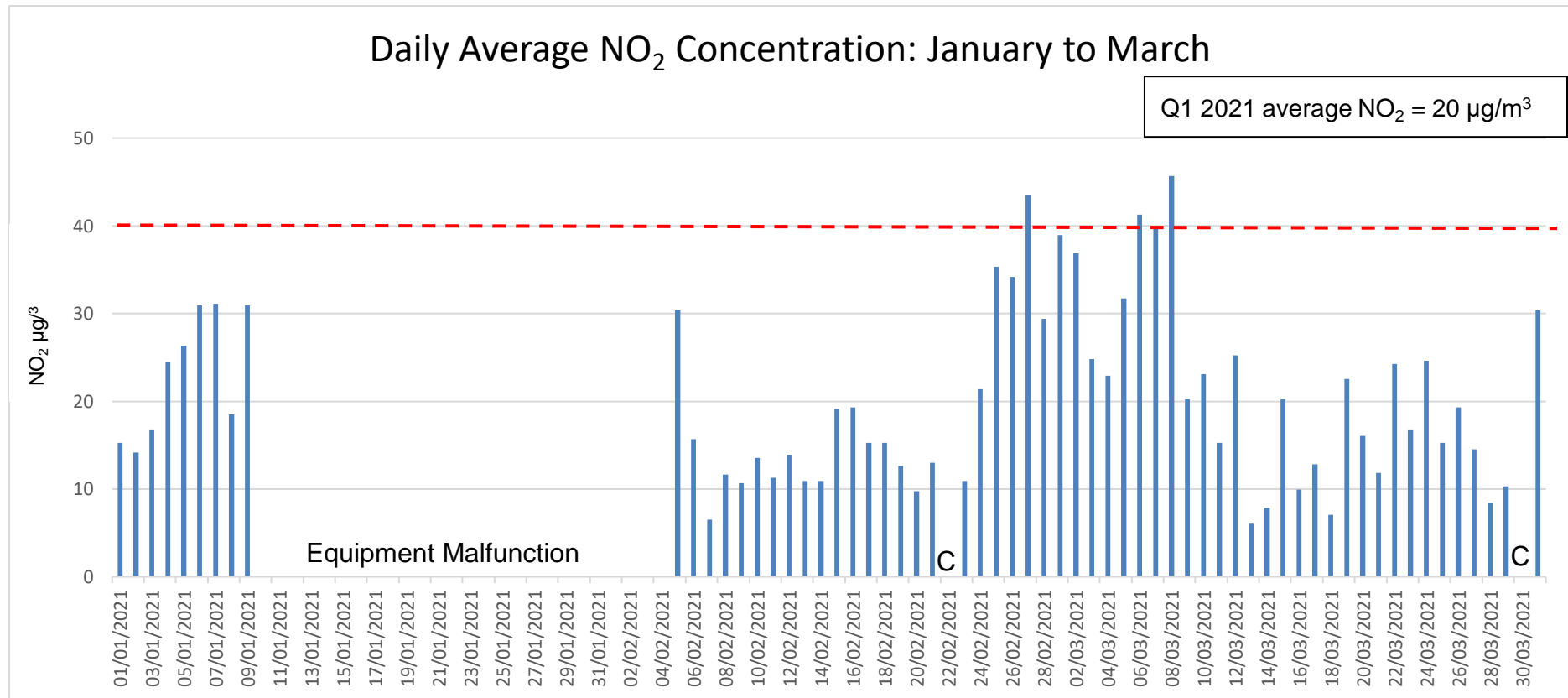


Figure 4 Daily Average NO<sub>2</sub> Q1 2021

C = Calibration

### 5.2 On-site Airport Monitoring Station Results: PM<sub>10</sub>

Daily average PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations recorded at the automatic station in DAP in Q1 2021 are presented in

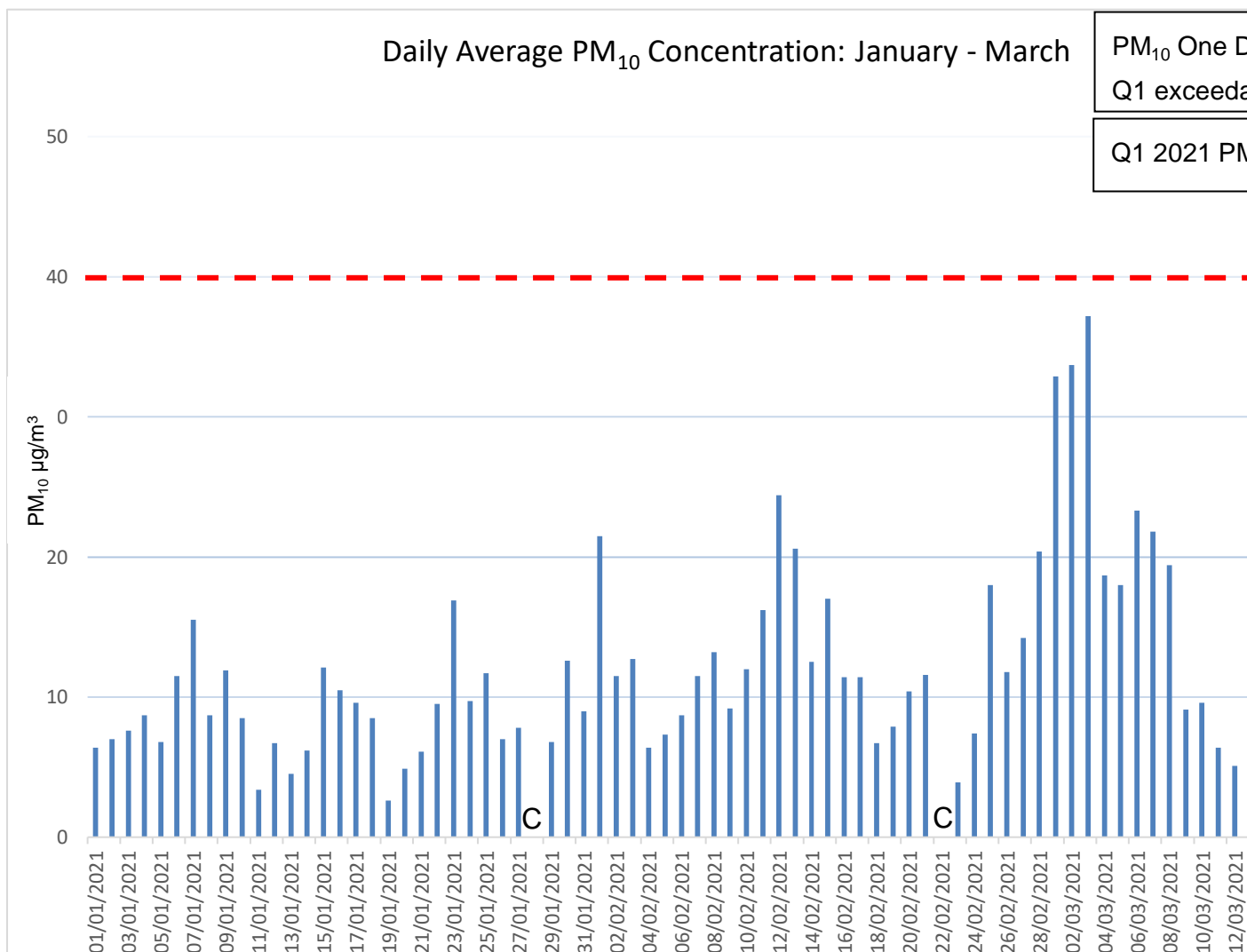


Figure 5. The average PM<sub>10</sub> was calculated as 9 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The Regulations set a 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> limit value of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, and an annual mean limit value of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> as shown in Table 2.

Objective	Averaging Period	Limit or Threshold Value (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	No. of Allowed Exceedances	No. of Exceedances (Year to date)
PM <sub>10</sub> Limit Value	24 hour	50	Not to be exceeded on more than 35 days per year	0
PM <sub>10</sub> Limit	Calendar	40	NA	NA

Value	Year			
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**Table 2** PM<sub>10</sub> Limit Values

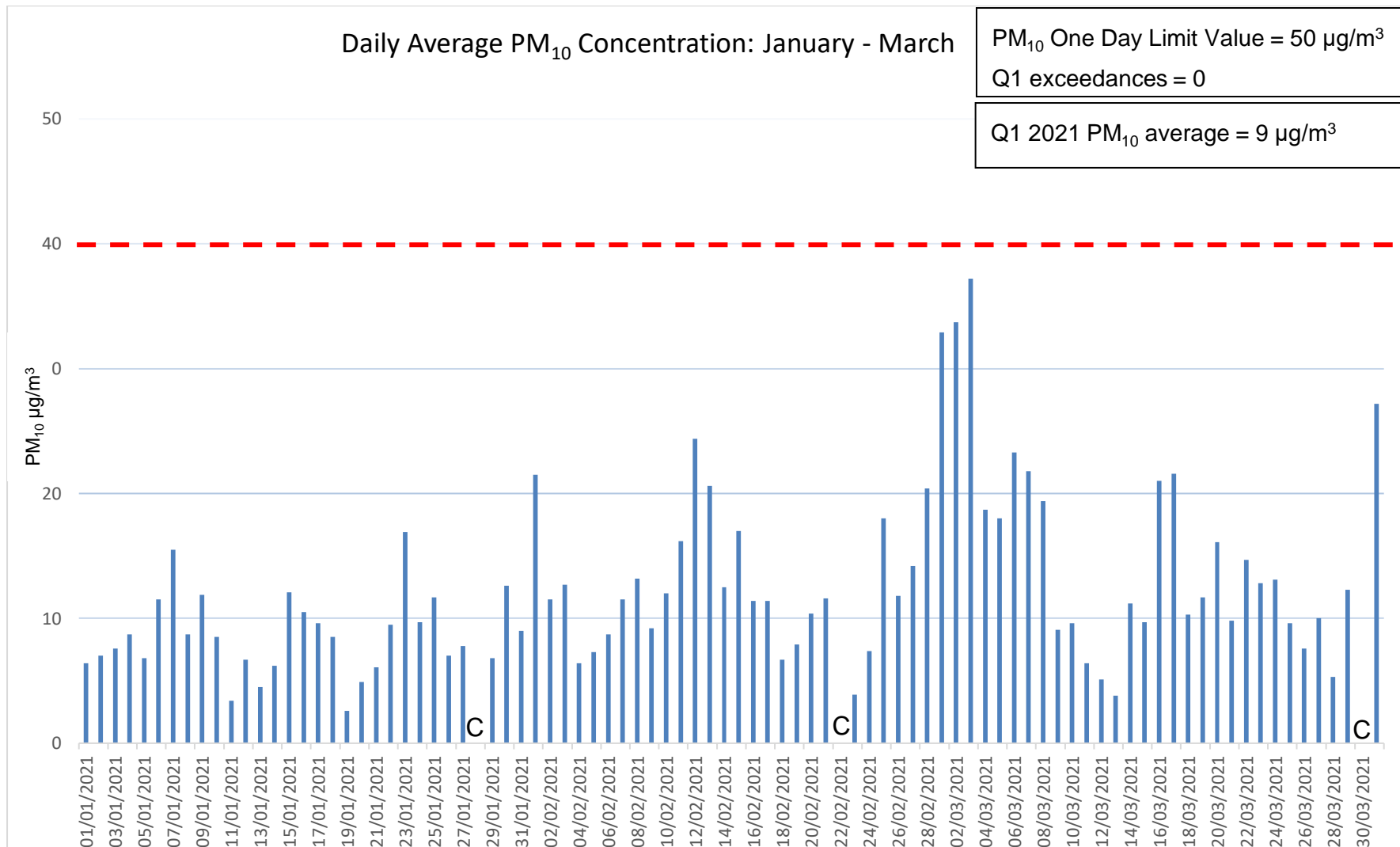


Figure 5 Daily Average PM<sub>10</sub> Q1 2021

C = Calibration



### **5.3 Odours**

Fuel odours may arise from many sources including road traffic, ground handling equipment as well as aircraft on the ground. Depending on weather conditions odours from fuel (hydrocarbons) may be detected at locations close to the airport. As discussed in section 4.2 of this report, diffusion tubes results for benzene indicate that the average concentrations are well below the national limit value at all locations.

The human nose is extremely sensitive and can detect very low concentrations of hydrocarbons in the air. Weather also impacts the dispersion of odour and affects the strength of odour and locations affected.

### **6.0 Conclusion**

Onsite Monitoring: The results of the NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations using the online analyser indicate concentrations are below the relevant annual limit value of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> and within the allowed criteria of short-term limit values.

Offsite Monitoring: Diffusion tube results for NO<sub>2</sub> indicate that concentrations at all locations are well below the annual average limit value. The diffusion tube results for NO<sub>2</sub> indicate that the highest concentrations are recorded at the bus depot at the airport, however, the Q1 recorded levels are within compliance levels.

Diffusion tube results for benzene indicate that concentrations at all locations are well below the annual average limit value.