Clean Air Barnet Insight Report: Outdoor Air Quality

Analysis of selected Breathe London Outdoor Air Quality Data 2024-2025

Evidence Base

This report is based on data collected during 2024 and 2025 by twenty one Breathe London monitors located in fifteen London Boroughs and one in St Albans. Five of the locations are in Barnet and two in Hammersmith. Locations were chosen if they were active for over 90% of the time and also had relatively high or low pollution.

Insights

NO2 levels of pollution increased at more locations than where it decreased while $PM_{2.5}$ levels of pollution increased at all locations.

NO_2

Comparing 2025 to 2024

- Results were mixed. Levels increased at thirteen locations and decreased at eight
- Increases were between 0.1 and 5.9 $\mu g/m^3$ and decreases between 0.1 and 2.9 $\mu g/m^3$
- In both years, six locations were above 30 $\mu g/m^3$, four were below 20 $\mu g/m^3$, St Albans was the highest and Honor Oak Park the lowest

In 2025

- All locations exceeded the WHO guideline. Four locations were below interim 20 $\mu g/m^3$, eleven were 20-30 $\mu g/m^3$ and six locations above 30 $\mu g/m^3$

$PM_{2.5}$

Comparing 2025 to 2024

- Levels increased at all twenty one locations
- Increases were between 0.8 and 3.5 $\mu g/m^3$ with ten locations seeing increases greater than 3.0 $\mu g/m^3$
- In 2024 all locations were less than 10 $\mu g/m^3$ while in 2025 eleven exceeded 10 $\mu g/m^3$
- Ikea Brent was highest in both years, Islington lowest in 2024 and Redbridge lowest in 2025

In 2025

- All locations exceed the WHO guideline with ten (in nine different boroughs) below interim 10 $\mu g/m^3$ and eleven (in eight boroughs plus St Albans) between 10.9 and 12.6 $\mu g/m^3$

Air Quality Standards

UK Legal limits set statutory compliance thresholds which are currently: annual mean NO_2 40 $\mu g/m^3$, annual mean $PM_{2.5}$ 20 $\mu g/m^3$. The World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines designed to minimise long-term health impacts are : annual mean NO_2 10 $\mu g/m^3$ (with interim targets of 40, 30 and 20), and annual mean $PM_{2.5}$ 5 $\mu g/m^3$ (interim targets 15 and 10). Continued exposure above WHO guidelines is associated with premature mortality, chronic illness, respiratory and cardiovascular impacts.

Clean Air Barnet

This Insight Report summarises our analysis of Breathe London Community Air Quality nodes that measure outdoor levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). Our analysis compares results to World Health Organization standards.

Clean Air Barnet (CAB) is part of Creative Sensemaking CIC. We provide insights based on publicly available outdoor air quality data and also run citizen science projects using portable air quality monitors to measure personal exposure to air pollution 24 hours a day. For more information and insight reports please visit our website:
https://sensemakingcic.co.uk/

Data Tables

NO2 annual averages 2024/5 sorted from lowest to highest 2025 levels

Lower than 20 µg/m^3 in 2025

NO2 annual average	Honor Oak Park Mains Lewisham	St James Primary Hammersmith	Mary Immaculate Barnet	Elmhurst Gardens Redbridge
2024	13.2	16.4	16.6	19.0
2025	15.0	17.5	18.8	19.7
change 2024 - 25	1.8	1.1	2.2	0.7

20-30 µg/m^3 in 2025

NO2 annual average	Rainham Havering	Reach Barnet	Putney Disraeli Street Wandsworth	Elephant and Castle Southwark	NW7 Hub Barnet
2024	19.3	22.8	23.4	17.6	24.8
2025	20.2	22.2	22.6	23.5	24.3
change 2024 – 25	0.9	-0.6	0.8	5.9	-0.5

NO2 annual average	Sloane Square Kensington	Cricklewood Lane Barnet	Christ's College Finchley Barnet	Brent Ikea	Serpentine Gallery Westminster	St Thomas' Hospital A&E Lambeth
2024	25.4	26.4	25.5	25.3	26.9	29.1
2025	24.6	25.1	26.8	27.3	27.3	29.9
change 2024 - 25	-0.9	-1.3	1.3	2.0	0.4	0.7

Above 30 µg/m^3 in 2025

NO2 annual average	Flora Gardens Primary Hammersmith	St Matthew's Road Brixton	Offord Road, Islington	Central Park Newham	Clean Air Southall & Hayes Hillingdon	Catherine Street St Albans
2024	33.4	30.3	32.1	35.3	36.6	39.8
2025	30.4	31.2	31.6	35.2	36.8	37.0
change 2024 - 25	-2.9	0.9	-0.5	-0.1	0.1	-2.8

PM2.5 annual averages 2024/5 sorted from lowest to highest 2025 levels

Lower than 10 µg/m^3 in 2025

PM2.5 annual average	Elmhurst Gardens Redbridge	St James Primary Hammersmith	St Thomas' Hospital A&E Lambeth	Honor Oak Park Mains Lewisham	Serpentine Gallery Westminster
2024	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.7	7.1
2025	7.5	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3
change 2024 - 25	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.2

PM2.5 annual average	Offord Road, Islington	Clean Air Southall & Hayes Hillingdon	Christ's College Finchley Barnet	Mary Immaculate Barnet	Elephant and Castle Southwark
2024	5.9	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.8
2025	8.6	8.7	9.1	9.4	9.5
change 2024 - 25	2.8	0.8	1.3	1.8	1.7

Above 10 µg/m^3 in 2025

PM2.5 annual average	St Matthew's Road Brixton	NW7 Hub Barnet	Reach Barnet	Flora Gardens Primary Hammersmith	Catherine Street St Albans	Central Park Newham
2024	9.1	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.0
2025	10.9	10.9	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.3
change 2024 – 25	1.8	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.4

PM2.5 annual average	Cricklewood Lane Barnet	Sloane Square Kensington	Rainham Havering	Putney Disraeli Street Wandsworth	Brent Ikea
2024	8.2	8.6	8.5	8.8	9.5
2025	11.4	11.7	12.0	12.1	12.6
change 2024 - 25	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.4	3.1