



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Thérèse Coffey MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House 17  
Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Our Ref: HM/FM/362

6 March 2018

Dear Thérèse,

I write to you as a matter of urgency. Thousands of my constituents have been without their water supply since Saturday 3rd March. The impact on householders has been quite stark:

- schools have been closed (for the second week now following the bad weather);
- sick, elderly and vulnerable people with already challenging circumstances have been put under additional pressure;
- providers of essential services have had to step up in order to deliver for the community; and
- there has been a loss to business.

Having been impacted myself, I can attest to the challenges which this has brought to my constituents. I have written to South East Water on this issue, as attached, but I would also seek your advice and reassurance on the following points:

- what steps is the Government taking to ensure that South East Water have the contingencies and plans in place to avoid a repetition;
- what sanctions and powers is the Government/OFWAT planning to use against South East Water for a failure to supply; and
- what measures will the Government/OFWAT be suggesting South East Water use to compensate householders for the loss of supply.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' and 'M' intertwined, with 'UW' written below them, all underlined.

Huw Merriman MP  
Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle