

HUW MERRIMAN MP
(Bexhill and Battle)



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Ian McAulay CEO Southern Water
Chief Executive Office
Southern Water
Yeoman Road
Worthing
BN13 3NX

Our Ref: HM24092

9 November 2021

Dear Mr McAulay,

Re: Environment Bill

I was one of the 22 Conservative MPs to vote against the Government's first attempt to tackle sewage discharge by water companies. I supported the amendment from the House of Lords which would have introduced, in law, steps to eradicate this practice.

Whilst the amendment I supported did not get passed, the Government had a rethink and with its amendment to the Environment Bill (45B), local residents will now see a legal duty on waste water companies to bring to an end the practice of discharging sewage into rivers and the sea during times of heavy rainfall. I voted in favour of the Government's new amendment in the Chamber last night.

Now this requirement is to be backed in law, I am keen to hear how Southern Water plans to implement this new legal duty to progressively reduce the adverse impact of sewage discharges which impact sea water in Bexhill as well as local rivers, streams and households when storm-surges occur.

I should be grateful for your initial thoughts on this and I am pleased that Sally-Ann Hart MP and I will be holding bi-monthly meetings with you from January where we should like this issue to be a regular agenda item.

With my best wishes to you and to all at Southern Water,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huw Merriman".

Huw Merriman
Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle

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