



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

5 July 2023

Dear Thérèse

Re: Thames Water's Water Resources Management Plan

I am writing to you today on behalf of thousands of concerned residents across my constituency regarding Thames Water's forthcoming Water Resources Management Plan 2024.

It is our understanding that Thames Water intends to submit a final version of its Water Resources Management Plan to you, as Secretary of State, for approval at the end of August this year. Currently, one of the preferred Strategic Resource Options in this plan is to build a direct river abstraction point above Teddington Weir in my constituency, with treated sewage to be discharged into the Thames to maintain river flow during periods of drought.

Understandably, these plans and their potential impacts on water quality and the river environment near Teddington – a stretch of the Thames enjoyed by many both recreationally and commercially – have caused a great deal of concern and opposition among local people. This has not been helped by the poor level of public engagement originally conducted by Thames Water, nor by recent revelations regarding the construction impacts on Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and green Metropolitan Open Land in our area. This will cause damage and destruction of important habitats with potential knock-on effects for our precious urban wildlife populations, including bats, stag beetles, hedgehogs, badgers, otters and various types of reptiles and amphibians.

As you may be aware, my colleague, the MP for Richmond Park, Sarah Olney, and I have repeatedly requested a meeting with the Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience, Rebecca Pow, to discuss these plans. Despite multiple letters and even a Point of Order raised in the House of Commons, Ms Pow refused even to acknowledge this request in her communications with us.

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Local residents in Twickenham and across the Thames Water catchment area are fed up with broken promise after broken promise, a lack of investment and under delivery from their water company. I therefore hope that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will take the time to engage with us on this issue and listen to our community's concerns.

On behalf of my constituents and all those concerned for the health of the River Thames and our environment in Teddington, I very much look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Munira Wilson', written in a cursive style.

MUNIRA WILSON MP
MP for Twickenham