

Julie Marson MP

Member of Parliament for Hertford & Stortford



House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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Mr Alastair Cochran
CEO of Thames Water

Sent via email.

Thursday 2nd November 2023

Dear Mr Cochran,

I am writing to you today on the release of sewage into local rivers in Hertford and Stortford.

Sewage is often being discharged into the Lea, Rib and Beane. Indeed, earlier this week, images on social media were published of sewage being released into local rivers near popular wild swimming spots. Not only is this sewage causing harm to the local environment, but it is also potentially dangerous for those swimming nearby.

The Government's Plan for Water sets out more investment, stronger regulation, and tougher enforcement to tackle every source of pollution. The number of sewage overflows monitored has increased from 7% in 2010 to 91% now and is expected to reach 100% by the end of the year. It is because of this action that we know the scale of what we are facing.

Sewage discharges are a matter of great public interest. I would, therefore, ask you to outline what steps you are taking to ensure that these spots are protected for the sake of local people.

Would you also send me information on all sewage discharges into rivers in my constituency from the past seven days, specifically relating to where these discharges took place and for what reason, please? Please let me know if these were planned or a result of storm overflows too. Lastly, I would be grateful to receive some overall performance data from you on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Marson".

Julie Marson MP