



Stephen  
Morgan MP  
House of Commons

Sir James Bevan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Environment Agency  
Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

23 August 2022

Dear Sir James,

### **Southern Water £90m fine**

I am writing regarding to you on behalf of my constituents to request information about the £90m fine Southern Water (SW) was ordered to pay last year for at least 6,971 unpermitted sewage discharges between 2010 and 2015.

As you know, this is the third year in a row SW has performed below target, with SW receiving a one star rating – the lowest level possible – and was the worst performing company for sewage pollution incidents per 10,000km of sewer, at 94.

The Chair of the Environment Agency (EA), Emma Howard Boyd, recently said herself, “For years people have seen executives and investors handsomely rewarded while the environment pays the price.” I agree. That’s why I voted to stop raw sewage being pumped into our rivers and oceans and supported the EA’s call last month for larger fines, prison sentences for Chief Executives and Board members whose companies are responsible for the most serious incidents, and company directors struck off so they cannot move on in their careers after illegal environmental damage.

Time and again SW has been allowed to pollute Portsmouth’s precious local environment and bathing waters, with retrospective fines and current laws clearly not robust enough to ensure water and sewage companies meet their obligations, which I raised concerns about with Ministers.

Meanwhile, as we continue to see shocking images of raw sewage being pumped into beaches along the south coast of England and elsewhere, my constituents continue to deal with the consequences of SW’s failures and many are keen to understand the current situation with the £90m fine it was ordered to pay last year.

#### **Member of Parliament for Portsmouth South | Shadow Minister for Schools**

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Despite questioning Ministers and commissioning research from the House of Commons library, my office has not received a satisfactory answer on this.

In light of this, and in the interests of transparency, please would you clarify:

- How much of the £90m fine SW has paid?
- What will the funds received be used for?
- What is the expected timeline for the fine to be paid in full?
- What confidence do you have the fine will be paid on time and in full?

I do hope you are able to provide necessary assurances and help give the people of Portsmouth the confidence that Government and your agency are taking this matter seriously.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely,

**Stephen Morgan MP**

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