



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Rebecca Pow MP
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Sir Robert Goodwill MP
Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
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28 July 2023

Dear Sir Robert,

I am writing to clarify a point I made on storm overflows at my appearance on the 12th of July hearing on Thames Water. Where I outlined that *'on the use of their storm sewage overflows way above what their permits allow. That is why we brought in the storm sewage overflow reduction plan, and that is why we have asked every single company to produce a plan for all their relevant storm sewage overflows'*.

Where water companies are breaching their storm overflow permits, I expect enforcement action to be taken in line with our existing regulatory regime. The Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan outlines that water companies must comply with all their existing regulatory obligations and duties, including permits issued by the Environment Agency.

The Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, however, goes beyond legal requirements to drive up to £56 billion of water company capital investment, and will lead to the tightening of permit conditions throughout England. This means that, in future, discharges that are currently lawful will become unlawful.

Yours sincerely,

REBECCA POW MP