



**Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs
Committee**

Susan Davy
South West Water
By email

22 May 2024

Dear Susan,

Cryptosporidium contamination in Brixham

I am writing regarding the recent outbreak of cryptosporidium in and around Brixham, an area for which South West Water is responsible. The number of confirmed cases of cryptosporidiosis rose to 57 yesterday, more than a hundred residents have reported symptoms, and 17,000 households and businesses have been affected since 15 May.

My Committee and I are deeply troubled by this episode. In failing to supply safe water and in responding slowly and ineffectively to the outbreak, South West Water has fallen far short of its responsibilities to its customers.

Therefore, my Committee formally requests your attendance before it on 5 June. We feel it is essential that we consider the cause of the outbreak and your immediate and long-term response to this crisis. It is vital that lessons are learned quickly to prevent a similar, and potentially even more dangerous, outbreak occurring again.

In the interim, the Committee requests your written account of the above matters by 31 May. My officials will make the necessary arrangements to facilitate your appearance in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Sir Robert Goodwill MP
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

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