



**Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs
Committee**

Thursday, 30 April 2026

Louis Babineau
Chair of Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec

By email

Subject: EFRA Committee report and South East Water leadership accountability

Dear Louis

I am writing in relation to the publication of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee's report on Failures at South East Water.

The Committee's report is highly critical of South East Water's performance, governance and leadership. It raises serious concerns about the company's ability to provide a reliable, resilient and accountable service to its customers, and calls for urgent leadership change.

As a significant shareholder in South East Water, you have a direct interest in the company's long-term viability, reputation and performance. You also have a responsibility to consider whether the current leadership is capable of addressing the scale of the problems we have identified by the Committee.

We would, therefore, appreciate your response to the below questions as soon as practically possible, and at the latest by 1 June 2026.

1. What changes do you believe are now required to South East Water's board or executive leadership?
2. What assessment have you made of the tenability of South East Water's current leadership, in light of the Committee's findings?
3. Do you consider the current leadership to be capable of restoring public, regulatory and investor confidence in the company?
4. What action will you take to ensure that South East Water has the governance, capability and accountability required to deliver a reliable service to its customers?

5. What steps will you take, as a shareholder, to ensure that South East Water addresses the failures identified in the Committee's report?

Customers, regulators and Parliament need to see clear evidence that the company's owners recognise the seriousness of the situation and are prepared to act. The Committee would like to underline that the problems at South East Water should not be treated as matters of operational inconvenience, but as symptoms of deeper weaknesses in leadership, planning and accountability.

I would be grateful for a response at your earliest convenience, and no later than 1 June 2026. The Committee may choose to publish your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Mr Alistair Carmichael MP
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee