

Date: 11th October 2022

Sent via email

Dear Vicky Elcoate

1. Background

I refer to your request for information made to James Hodgson on 16th August 2022. Your request is being responded to under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("Regulations"), Your request reads as follows:

For monitoring purposes we need drainage maps with outflow points into the river:

1. upstream of Higher Mill flats in Windsor Terrace, up to the sewage works. Particularly the Horn Bridge pumping station.
2. Downstream to the sea from Jordan cottage just below the weir where children play.

(The maps we were given only show the river from Higher Mill Flats in Windsor Terrace to Jordan cottage).

We could be more helpful in regards to tracking down problems if we also had the drainage maps covering Colway Lane, Woodbury Down and Monmouth Park (new estate on right of Colway Lane). Is it possible to email or share them another way please?

Following up on the other points we raised in advance of the meeting as well as during it (these relate to the briefing you provided on paper):

1. Sampling reports – we will be in touch for the results of your more detailed summer sampling in the new year as you suggested
2. SWW's plans to reduce your regulated sewage releases into the Lim – you have said you are investing £1m in reducing spills by around 90% (is this by 2025 when you're targeting zero serious pollution or by 2030 when you say you will cause zero harm?). Please could we have the target in numbers of hours (680 hours in 2021 as we understand it) and number of events (we understand you are aiming to reduce to 10 but how does this translate into hours?) and the date target. The River Lim Action Group aims to see the river restored to ecological health by 2025 and we need to understand how your targets align with ours.
3. We were very concerned, as you know, during the visit to see biobeads lying around in the yard which correlate with biobeads found on local beaches. It's unclear how these are escaping given your screening processes, other than your reference to an historical breach. It's clear that best practice is still not being applied and biobead pollution remains a significant concern. The answers you have already provided via the press office are general and don't relate to the Uplyme Works where the problem has not been fully addressed.
4. Access to real time information on water quality is something that would help the Monitors' work. We look forward to hearing a date for when this will be possible.
5. Year round monitoring at beaches – you say you have extended year round monitoring at some beaches. Does this or when will it include our beaches in Lyme Regis?

This letter provides the response to your request, please accept our apologise for the delay in responding..

2. South West Water's (SWW) Response

I can confirm that SWW does hold information of the type you have requested.

Under the Regulations, SWW has a duty to individuals requesting information to make that information available on request. SWW must comply with this duty, unless one of the exceptions contained within the Regulations applies.

This information is enclosed.

Maps

Please find attached the plans you have requested.

Overflows

The overflows in the table below are currently listed for improvements under the Bathing Water Drivers in the next Asset Management Planning (AMP) period (2025-30). The target will be a maximum of 2/3 significant spills per bathing season (aggregated).

The sites are also being assessed under the Storm Overflow Drivers for next AMP which require 'bathing water overflows' to achieve 2/3 total spills individually per bathing season (by 2035) and 10 total spills per annum (by 2030).

Name	Type	Location
Goslings Bridge	Combined Storm Overflow	Lyme Regis
Gun Cliff Pump Station	Combined Storm Overflow & Emergency Overflow	Lyme Regis
Horn Bridge Pump Station	Combined Storm Overflow & Emergency Overflow	Lyme Regis
Jericho	Combined Storm Overflow	Lyme Regis
Mill Lane	Combined Storm Overflow	Uplyme
Uplyme Waste Water Treatment Works	Emergency Overflow	Uplyme
	Storm Tank Overflow	Uplyme

Horn Bridge Pump Station has been fast-tracked into our WaterFit initiative and will be investigated to identify what cost-effective action can be taken before 2025 to reduce spills towards the target of 10 spills per annum.

BioBeads

As explained during the site visit, the biobeads that were found within the gravel at the top of the site were from when contractors completed a media replacement. These have not been lost or leaked out from the treatment process.

However, we do appreciate they should not be left on the ground, these were/have been cleaned up and we will ensure an improved procedure is implemented during future media replacement activities.

We have also now successfully trailed a larger media type at Uplyme STW which we plan to roll out, being larger, the new biobeads also reduce the risk of media loss to the environment.

In terms of discharging any biobeads to the environment from the treatment process. All our treatment works that have biobeads, including Uplyme STW, have procedures, checks and secondary containment solutions put in place to address this.

Notifications

When an overflow occurs, the data is used to generate warnings about spill events. These warnings are automatically sent to beach managers, the Environment Agency (EA) and Surfers Against Sewage.

In response, the beach managers will consider placing signs on the beach to guide users of one of the potential risks to bathing water quality, there are many other factors such as urban drainage, agricultural run-off, algae, private sewers, bovine and bird excrement all of which have increased risks at times of heavy rainfall.

Lyme Regis is included within the notification system which is active throughout the year.

Please note that the EA only monitor water quality during the bathing season (1st May to 30th September) and most beach managers do not currently provide active public advice outside of this period.

3. Further Queries

Should you have any questions, please contact us at finreg@southwestwater.co.uk. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of this response and should be addressed to Lisa Gahan (Regulatory Director) who can be contacted by e-mail on EIRinternalreviews@southwestwater.co.uk

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply, without charge, to the Information Commissioner, who will consider whether SWW has complied with its obligations under the Regulations and can require SWW to remedy any problems. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Regulations in general, on the Information Commissioner's website at: www.ico.org.uk. Complaints to the Information Commissioner can be made via the "report a concern" section of the Information Commissioner's website.

With best regards,

South West Water

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