

Robert Courts MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Ref: ts/RAC/TW

I am writing following a letter I have just received from the Environment Agency (EA) with regard to the River Windrush.

In response to my letter requesting an update on the independent investigation due to take place into the condition of the Windrush, the EA has informed me that Thames Water has withdrawn its offer to part-fund the investigation. The agreement had been that the costs of the investigation would be split between Thames Water and the EA, in recognition of Thames Water's responsibility to maintain a healthy, unpolluted river.

I would be grateful if you could fully explain the reasons why this offer of funding has been withdrawn, and why Thames Water no longer feels that it has a responsibility to support an independent investigation into the health of the River Windrush? I must say that I find this decision particularly disappointing in light of the numerous assurances I received from yourself and others that Thames Water was fully supportive of a thorough investigation.

This is an issue which affects many of my constituents – your customers – across West Oxfordshire, and I believe it is vital that an independent investigation takes place into the health of the Windrush in order that we can get to the bottom of whether there has been a decline in the condition of the river and, if there has indeed been a decline, to establish precisely what is causing it.

I am therefore formally requesting that Thames Water re-commits to funding an independent investigation on the condition of the River Windrush.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Robert Courts MP

P.S. In light of the significant local interest in this issue, I intend to publish this letter on my website.

From the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Witney in West Oxfordshire including Bampton, Burford, Carterton, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Eynsham, Witney and Woodstock.