

Robert Courts MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Sarah Bentley
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Ref: rd/RC4789

As you will be aware, the landmark Environment Act has just received Royal Assent and is now law.

The Act introduces a range of new duties on water companies, including:

- a legal requirement to make progressive reductions in the adverse impacts of storm overflows;
- a legal requirement to publish near real-time information - within one hour - on the operation of storm overflows;
- a legal requirement to monitor the water quality upstream and downstream of storm overflows and sewage disposal works;
- a legal requirement to produce comprehensive statutory Drainage and Sewerage Management Plans, setting out how you will reduce storm overflows.

Taken together, the Act puts in place more protections against water pollution than ever before.

I would therefore be grateful if you could set out in detail the plans which Thames Water are putting in place to comply with these new legal duties?

The people of West Oxfordshire are clear that we want to see far greater investment in better infrastructure, and far less on payouts to shareholders. So I would particularly welcome assurances with regard to your commitment to deliver the urgent infrastructure upgrades our area needs to reduce storm overflows?

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Robert Courts MP

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