

# Robert Courts MP



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

robert@robertcourts.co.uk

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities  
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
Ref: rd/RC48098

*Sec Secretary of State,*

### RE: Schedule 3 of The Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Congratulations on your new role. I am writing with regard to the issue of sewage pollution in rivers, a matter I first raised with you in 2017 when you were Secretary of State for the Environment.

I believe that there is a significant measure which you could take within your current capacity which would be a positive step forward in addressing river pollution.

As you will be aware, the recently published draft Storm Overflows Reduction Plan notes that the Government is reviewing the case for implementing Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. I understand that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities is leading this review.

I am therefore writing to express my full support for implementing Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Removing developers' automatic 'right to connect' to public sewers would in my view be a significant step forward in supporting the Government's wider efforts to tackle river pollution caused by storm sewage overflows. It would support sustainable drainage, ensuring new homes do not place additional pressure on sewage system capacity. **As the Government seeks to transform how water companies deal with sewage and in turn drastically reduce the use of storm sewage overflows, it is in my view imperative that the Government implements Schedule 3 as soon as possible.**

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and look forward to the outcome of your Department's review in due course.

*Yours*

*Robert Courts*

**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.*