

HUW MERRIMAN MP
(Bexhill and Battle)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

By email to:

Mr Lawrence Gosden, Chief Executive, Southern Water

23 August 2022

Dear Mr Gosden,

Thank you for your reply of 19 August to the Sussex MPs letter of 18 August regarding the sewage incident at Bexhill and sewage discharge.

I look forward to the meeting this Friday with your senior team to discuss the incident in more detail.

There are some further specific questions about this incident which I should like to raise at Friday's meeting and which I should also like a written response to, so that I can share this information with my constituents. These are:

1. Can Southern Water confirm that the two discharges on 17 August from the Galley Hill site were the definitely the only accidents from the site during the summer? (Reports from Lifeguards and public mention excrement and waste being seen floating in the sea around Galley Hill on Sunday 14 August).
2. Does Southern Water carry out any testing of bathing water when there is a sewage spill?
3. What actions were taken to close the beach to the public? There were no obvious signs at the steps onto the beaches to warn people.
4. Was Hastings Borough Council contacted at the same time as Rother District Council? I understand that the sewage spill went east before the changing tides took it west.
5. What is the documented action plan when there is an unintended discharge from the pumping station? What other agencies are involved in the actions?
6. What is the normal maintenance plan for the treatment works?
7. I understand that the cause of the sewage discharge at Galley Hill was due to the main power transformer and backup transformer failing. Can you confirm that this is correct and also confirm when the backup transformer had last been checked to ensure it was in good working order?

Please reply to: Constituency Office, 29-31 Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1EE

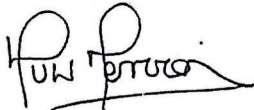
Telephone: 01424 734910

Email: huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk www.huwmerriman.org.uk

8. How long did it take to get a back-up generator to site?
9. What were the reasons for the second sewage spill on the same day? If people were on site, why could it not be stopped sooner?
10. Why is still there a strong and unpleasant smell emanating from the pumping station?

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Merriman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Huw Merriman MP
Chairman of Transport Select Committee
Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle