

**RESPONSE OF SIMON JUPP MP TO CITY COUNCIL LETTER ON THE RIVER EXE:
DATED 2 MAY 2023**

Dear Mr Street,

I hope you are well.

Thank you for your letter dated 10th March 2023 about the River Exe and water quality. May I apologise for the long delay in responding, I am receiving a high level of correspondence at present.

Back in February, I led a debate on the performance of South West Water in Parliament. While this Conservative government has brought in the toughest ever crackdown on sewage spills, it is simply unacceptable that we pay the highest sewerage bills in the country but still witness an all too frequent use of combined sewer overflows. They are supposed to be available in an emergency, not used whenever the system can't cope due to a lack of investment. South West Water should upgrade their systems instead of rewarding bonuses.

The Environment Act and Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan backs this up, introduced to ensure that water companies face strict limits on when they can use storm overflows. WaterFit Live, a new website from South West Water, is useful tool to help monitor the use of these CSOs across our shores so we can hold failing companies to account. It currently shares information about water quality in our area but sadly won't provide real-time data until later this year.

I also want to see proper investment in Exmouth. South West Water say they are currently working on a project to improve Maer Road and Phear Park pumping stations' storm overflows performance. In the last few weeks, I was delighted to see multi-million-pound plans to upgrade Sidmouth and Tipton St John's sewage system unveiled by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

As I'm sure you would agree, South West Water must invest locally to clean up their act and the River Exe's water. Working cross-party with parish, town, district and county councillors, and environmental groups, I'm continuing to hold South West Water to account about their plans.

Thank you for bringing this council motion to my attention. I will continue to pursue these matters through the appropriate channels.

Kind regards,

Simon

Simon Jupp MP

Member of Parliament for East Devon

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