

Julie James AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1281  
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/01036/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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28 June 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 6 May, regarding petition P-06-1281 which calls on the Welsh Government to urgently stop raw sewage discharges into Barry's Old Harbour and Watchtower Bays.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) works closely with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to monitor bathing water quality around Barry. The classification of bathing water quality is determined by using sample results over the last four years. In Barry, Cold Knapp, Whitmore Bay and Jackson's Bay are designated as bathing waters, and the water quality at these beaches is classified as Excellent, Good and Sufficient respectively. However, Watch House Bay or Barry Old Harbour is not a designated bathing waters and is not monitored by NRW.

I understand that Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) is aware of concerns raised by some members of the local community regarding pollution in Watchtower Bay and have met with them to discuss the situation. My officials have since contacted DCWW and I understand local residents accepted DCWW's explanation that the brown 'slick' is a naturally occurring marine algae bloom known as Phaeocystis. Nevertheless, DCWW agreed with the group to explore the possibility of making real-time alerts of discharges from two emergency overflows (Cold Knapp and Barry Town) available via the 'Surfers Against Sewage' app.

More generally, the Better River Quality Taskforce has been established to drive a rapid change and improvement to the way in which combined storm overflows (CSOs) are managed and regulated in Wales. A roadmap will be published in July outlining the key deliverables for reducing the impact of storm overflows. Further information is available on NRW's website: [Natural Resources Wales / Storm Overflows in Wales](#).

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

It is only by working together and taking a 'Team Wales' approach that we can tackle the risks impacting our waterbodies. I therefore welcome this engagement from citizens and organisations outlining their concern for water quality in Old Harbour and Watchtower Bay.

Such support will be necessary in driving the cross sectoral interventions required to deliver the desired improvements in water quality.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change  
Yours sincerely