

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies AM

Huw.Irranca-Davies@assembly.wales

11 February 2019

Dear Huw,

Further to your question raised in Plenary regarding sewer outfalls in the Garw Valley and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water's investment in the area, I promised to write to you with further advice.

Where public sewers run by Dŵr Cymru Welsh water are 'combined', carrying both wastewater and surface water, the system includes 'combined sewer overflows' or CSOs in places where the system could become overwhelmed and flood homes and businesses. There are several CSOs in the Garw valley on the Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water network, these discharges to the river are regulated and permitted under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (2016) by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). All storm overflows must comply with relevant design standards, water quality standards and cause no deterioration to the existing quality of the receiving water. A permit for intermittent discharges such as CSOs, may specify the volume of permitted discharges or if it needs a screen to remove sewage litter.

The vast majority of these discharges into the River Garw have permits, however NRW are aware of at least one CSO which does not currently have a permit. To rectify this a programme of work is being carried out nationally by NRW to legalise these discharges and bring them into compliance.

The current investment programme, which NRW oversees and which runs up to 2020, will include those CSOs in the Garw valley and is focused on the installation and use of telemetry equipment to record the number and duration of spills from CSOs. This information will be reported to NRW, it will then be used by NRW and Dŵr Cymru to identify and investigate frequently spilling CSOs. This work will, in turn, inform future investment to improve the operation of overflows across Wales.

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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.

NRW are not aware of any other large scale investment by Dŵr Cymru in the Garw valley. Additionally, NRW are not aware of any problematic CSOs in the Garw valley on information currently held. If there are any particular discharges to the river of concern to your constituents, please encourage them to report them directly to NRW to investigate further. Telephone 0300 065 3000 or email nptbridgend.nrm@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Regards
Lesley

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