Address1

Address2

Address3

Address 4

Date

Dear xxx,

I am writing to you as my MP because I am concerned about the state of the rivers in our constituency, specifically in relation to sewage pollution.

Only 14% of England’s rivers are classified as being in good ecologic condition under Water Framework Directive. Sewage pollution is one of the major factors for their poor condition. In 2020 raw sewage was spilt into rivers xxxx times, for xxxx hours, in this constituency, according to data made available by the Rivers Trust. The scale of sewage pollution is damaging our rivers and threatening the health of river-users.

The data on sewage pollution was brought to my attention by CPRE North Yorkshire, who have recently highlighted the value of rivers to the environment and economy of our area and to people’s health and wellbeing. They also highlighted measures individuals can take to improve the health of our rivers, but political and legislative changes are also needed to achieve the dramatic improvements that are needed.

As my MP I would be grateful if you could use your influence to help address this alarming problem by:

* Pressing Government to take action, particularly by supporting amendments to the Environment Bill that place a duty on government to clean up our rivers and a duty on water companies to reduce sewage spills and to improve their monitoring and reporting of incidents.
* In any dealings with water companies, stressing the need for them to invest and upgrade their infrastructure to tackle the problem of sewage pollution and to improve their monitoring and reporting of sewage spills, for the benefit of your constituents.

Yours sincerely,

Xxxx

**Raw Sewage Spills in North Yorkshire in 2020 by Constituency (analysed by CPRE North Yorkshire)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Constituency** | **Number of raw sewage spills in 2020** | **Total duration of raw sewage spills (hours) in 2020** | **Number of sites (sewage treatment works or Combined Sewer Overflows)** | **Average number of spills per site in 2020** | **Average duration of per site in 2020** |
| Thirsk and Malton | 3640 | 22129 | 133 | 27 | 166 |
| Middlesbrough | 192 | 477 | 13 | 15 | 37 |
| Middlesbrough S and E Cleveland | 582 | 3810 | 36 | 16 | 106 |
| **Richmond** | **4812** | **49124** | **113** | **43** | **435** |
| Redcar | 304 | 775 | 25 | 12 | 31 |
| Scarborough and Whitby | 1427 | 8585 | 67 | 21 | 128 |
| York Outer | 566 | 5124 | 25 | 23 | 205 |
| Selby and Ainsty | 2385 | 18847 | 63 | 38 | 299 |
| **Skipton and Ripon** | **6325** | **63889** | **123** | **51** | **519** |
| York Central | 1836 | 14838 | 57 | 32 | 260 |
| Harrogate and Knaresborough | 1298 | 7486 | 60 | 22 | 125 |
| **Totals (North Yorkshire)** | **23367** | **195084** | **715** | **(Ave 32.6)** | **(Ave 248.9)** |

**Raw Sewage Spills in North Yorkshire in 2020 by Water Company (analysed by CPRE North Yorkshire)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Water Company** | **Number of raw sewage spills in 2020** | **Total duration of raw sewage spills (hours) in 2020** | **Number of sites (sewage treatment works or Combined Sewer Overflows)** | **Average number of spills per site in 2020** | **Average duration of per site in 2020** |
| Northumbrian | 2247 | 17642 | 107 | 21 | 165 |
| **United Utilities** | 1759 | 20478 | 15 | **117** | **1365** |
| Yorkshire Water | 19361 | 156963 | 595 | 33 | 264 |

Figures taken from Environment Agency data that was geo-referenced and published by The Rivers Trust at - <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e834e261b53740eba2fe6736e37bbc7b/>