

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Whitburn CSO (ref: GF 1230 20)
Date: 08 April 2020 10:51:33

Dear All,

I hope you are all keeping well and finding opportunities in adapting to new regimes.

The NAO has received further correspondence on the subject of sewage discharges at Whitburn and the concern that the issues previously reported have not been successfully addressed by the enhancement works undertaken to the system in 2017. I have extracted content from the correspondent (attached) to highlight the core concerns raised of:

- A. Discharge records for 2018 of 376,593 tonnes discharged (extract 1)
Discharge records to November 2019 of 760,993.50 tonnes (extract 2)
- B. Enhancement works undertaken not being as understood to be intended (extract 3)
- C. An ongoing interest held by the European Commission in the performance of the enhanced system (extract 4)

I would be grateful if you would consider these concerns by responding to the following questions:

1. Were the works undertaken by NWL as intended and described to the EA, Ofwat and EC?
2. Did the works fulfil the intended purpose?
3. Please confirm the total discharge volumes for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 Jan to Nov (as per extract 2) and 2019 total
4. Does the EA recognise the discharge records displayed in Extract 2? Are they EA records – either completely or partially, as extract 1 implies they are amended?
5. Is the apparent doubling of discharge volumes between 2018 and 2019 a cause for concern? Do Defra and EA have an understanding of the reasons behind any increase and an explanation of the apparent failure of the enhanced system? Is there an underlying cause for concern, and if so, does the EA have any plans to address this?
- 6.
7. What is the current position with respect to the EC?

Ideally I would request your combined or individual responses by cop Friday 24 April, but I appreciate that under current circumstances and with the possibility of taking leave over the Easter period that may not be possible. I would therefore be grateful if you could let me know when is reasonable and practical for you to respond.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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