



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Clare Pillman  
Natural Resources Wales  
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James Bevan  
Environment Agency  
Horizon House  
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April 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Marian, Clare and James

### **Phosphate pollution in the River Wye catchment**

Addressing the phosphate pollution in the River Wye catchment is an issue of the utmost public importance. I have been working with staff at Natural England, the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, alongside cross-border MPs and local councils, in the hope that we can develop a coordinated approach along the length of the river.

I am writing to you now collectively to seek your coordinated and joint support on this vital issue.

I attach a document put together by the above agencies and Herefordshire Council which explains work under way, and sets out the case for further resources required to complete and implement the action plan; as well as ancillary documents setting out local impacts and possible solutions for consideration.

My request is that, as a matter of urgency, you and your agencies:

-- recognise River Wye phosphate pollution as a pressing public issue, and commit to solving it in a coordinated and cross-border way;



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- devote the resources internally forthwith to resource the short term work that has been identified, and get the longer term plan scoped;
- recognise that such a plan may require appropriate regulatory and other interventions to be effective, as part of an equitable and balanced approach;
- help us to put this plan in front of the UK Government and the Welsh Government in good time for the Spending Review 2021, so that the plan can be resourced for the longer term as needed.

I would be grateful if you could nominate one of the three of you to act as lead for the agencies on this issue.

Given the need for an integrated, heads up and collaborative approach, I am copying this to the Leaders of Herefordshire and Powys Councils, the Secretary of State and Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Welsh Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs.

Yours ever,

**Jesse Norman**  
**Member of Parliament**  
**Hereford and South Herefordshire**

Copies to:

Cllr Rosemarie Harris, Leader, Powys Council  
Cllr David Hitchener, Leader, Herefordshire Council  
Rt Hon George Eustice MP, Secretary of State, DEFRA  
Rebecca Pow MP, Minister, DEFRA  
Lesley Griffiths MS, Welsh Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs