

DANIEL KAWCZYNSKI MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

28 April 2023

Dear Constituent

Nutrient Levels in UK Water

Thank you for contacting me about nutrient levels in the UK water.

I am aware that increased levels of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus can speed up the growth of certain plants, disrupting natural processes and devastating wildlife. Water companies have been required to invest £2.5 billion to reduce nutrient pollution from wastewater treatment works between 2020 and 2025.

As announced in the Government's Plan for Water, water companies will be required to upgrade their wastewater treatment works across the country to the highest standards for nutrient removal, which will allow for the use of nature-based solutions, such as integrated wetlands, to remove nutrients. Further, the Nutrient Mitigation Scheme established by Natural England will help wildlife and boost access to nature by investing in projects like new and expanded wetlands and woodlands. This scheme is being supported by up to £30 million investment from the Government and will allow for the development of new housing and help to drive nature recovery in areas where there are high levels of nitrate and phosphate pollution.

My ministerial colleagues and I are aware that high levels of nutrient pollution in protected sites are stalling housing delivery across 74 Local Planning Authorities, reflecting a major barrier to the Government's ambition to deliver 300,000 homes per year. Ministers have provided significant support for protected sites, both to address the pollution and to support housing developers to deliver environmental obligations. Further support was announced in the Spring Budget to ensure 'nutrient neutrality' obligations can be efficiently delivered. This will reduce the risks facing developers building homes in affected areas.

Finally, the Environment Act 2021 includes targets to reduce the key sources of river pollution, including nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by at least 40 per cent by 2038, as well as reducing phosphorous loadings from treated wastewater by 80 per cent by 2038.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kaw', followed by a horizontal line.

Daniel Kawczynski MP
Member of Parliament for Shrewsbury & Atcham