

DANIEL KAWCZYNSKI MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

19 May 2023

Dear Constituent

Storm Overflows Debate – 25 April 2023

Thank you for contacting me about the recent parliamentary debate on storm overflows.

Opposition MPs tabled a motion to call on the Government to set targets and publish a plan to address storm overflows, provide for financial penalties and introduce monitoring. I voted for the following motion: 'That this House calls on the Government to set a target for the reduction of sewage discharges, to provide for financial penalties in relation to sewage discharges and breaches of monitoring requirements, and to carry out an impact assessment of sewage discharges.' A record of this on Hansard: <https://votes.parliament.uk/Votes/Commons>

The Government's Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, published in August 2022, set out stringent targets to protect people and the environment and is backed up by up to £56 billion capital investment, which is the largest infrastructure programme in water company history. The Government announced that it would enshrine the plan's target into law through the Environment Act 2021. It will make its costed and credible target to reduce storm overflows legally binding, in line with the plan.

This announcement builds on the requirement for all storm overflows to be fitted with monitors by the end of 2023. 91 per cent currently have them fitted which is an increase from only seven per cent in 2010. The recent Plan for Water includes over £1.6 billion of new investment into vital infrastructure to improve the water quality of our rivers, lakes and coastal waters. I am aware that £1.1 billion is being spent specifically on storm overflows.

Finally, the Government is consulting on proposals for unlimited fines to be imposed on water companies that break the rules. More than £142 million has already been levied in fines since 2015 and I am aware that money from fines and penalties will now be channelled back into the environment.

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