

Mr Philip Duffy  
Chief Executive Officer  
Environment Agency Head Office  
Horizon House  
Bristol  
BS1 5AH  
05 April 2024

Dear Mr Duffy

**Re: Thames Water, Teddington Direct River Abstraction**

Paddle UK is the National Governing Body for paddlesports in the UK and the membership body for England. We are committed to protecting the special places we paddle, ensuring that our community can enjoy clean, nature rich blue environments.

I am writing to you on behalf of our community, to raise serious concerns regarding Thames Water's proposed 'Teddington Direct River Abstraction Scheme'. In particular regarding treated recycled water being removed from Mogden Sewage treatment works and discharged into the Teddington stretch of the Thames.

We believe that this scheme poses a significant threat to public health as well as the natural environment. As such, the interests of members, our local paddling clubs and delivery partners based along the River Thames will be severely impacted.

Information regarding the scheme on Thames Water's website highlights mitigations to reduce the impact on the environment with ongoing assessments in place. There is no reference to any assessments on the impacts the scheme will have on public health. We believe that the release of these discharges into the watercourse may increase levels of bacteria, viruses and parasites that are harmful to humans.

Given that this section of waterway is heavily used by recreational groups, Paddle UK alongside other watersport interests such as Rowing, is urging Thames Water to undertake a detailed assessment of the public health impact of discharging treated effluent into the watercourse before a final decision is taken to apply for planning permission.

Yours sincerely

Ashley Metcalfe



Chief Executive, Paddle UK