

Emma Hardy MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

By email to; emma.hardy.mp@parliament.uk

17 February 2026

Dear Emma

Re: Thames Water's Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA) scheme

Your two recent announcements have exposed fundamental flaws in Thames Water's proposed scheme that make stopping it more urgent than ever.

On 3 February, you announced the first plan to protect against PFAS 'forever chemicals', stating that "acting now is essential to prevent irreversible harm." On 13 February, you designated Kingston and Ham as London's new bathing water site, recognising "the pride in places that matter most to people." These decisions reveal two critical conflicts:

Location absurdity: Of 692,000 metres of Thames riverbank, Thames Water somehow selected a site directly adjacent to London's new bathing location. When families visit, they'll picnic on the very green space Thames Water plans to board up as a building site for years. The scheme will then pump treated sewage on average for 45 days each summer—exactly when thousands will be swimming and gathering there. Their "Best Value" model, already criticised by Sir Jon Cunliffe, clearly doesn't account for this.

PFAS failure: Thames Water's published treatment levels won't address PFAS contamination. A scheme going live in 7 years and operating for 80 more is being designed to yesterday's standards. They promised to publish pilot treatment results many times —they haven't. Their Gate 3 submission to RAPID shows treatment based on the current Hogsmill sewage works permit, which doesn't cover PFAS. This guarantees a costly retrofit in 10 years, with the public paying twice for a scheme that's inadequate now.



One final reality check: the scheme operates on average 45 days annually, producing 3.2 billion litres if problem-free. In the first 45 days of 2026, 300 times that volume has already flowed over Teddington Weir and has been washed out to sea.

Our invitation for you to visit Teddington stands. We'd value the chance to show you this emerging problem firsthand and understand how these policies align with approving this scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Ian McNuff
Founder member, Save Our Lands and River

CC Munira Wilson MP, Sarah Olney MP, Cllr Gareth Roberts, Cllr Julia Neden-Watts