



[www.saveourlandsandrivers.org.uk](http://www.saveourlandsandrivers.org.uk)

Emma Hardy MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

By email to [emma.hardy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:emma.hardy.mp@parliament.uk)

16 June 2026

Dear Emma

I am writing again to you to bring to your urgent attention a fundamental flaw in the "Best Value" regulatory framework currently being used to greenlight the Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA) scheme. As Minister, you have rightly called for water to be treated as a "scarce resource" that "matters all year round".

Thames Water markets this scheme to the public as a 69p/m<sup>3</sup> of water "bargain," and it was this figure that drove the Best Value cost selection. But this figure is mathematical fiction. It assumes 365-day operation, while their own operational models show it is an "emergency-only" asset needed for just 6.5 weeks a year. When corrected for actual use, the production cost exceeds £5.12, almost 7.5 times higher and results in Thames Water customers paying treble the average retail price per litre of water compared to now. It also means TDRA is actually the most expensive scheme in the country of all of the major water schemes overseen by Ofwat.

I have already copied you with a letter to RAPID dated 10 June 2026 asking them to explain why it is permitting a utility company to hide this true unit cost when money's tight and times are so hard for customers. We ask for your support to formally stop this scheme and pick one of the many alternatives that were clearly better value but have been set aside based on phantom economics.

Yours sincerely

**Ian McNuff**

Founder Member, Save Our Lands and River (SOLAR)

C.C Munira Wilson MP, Sarah Olney MP