

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Ofwat P and O](#)  
**Subject:** Comments about the draft determination of Southern Water's ODI.  
**Date:** 21 October 2021 02:34:57

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Dear Offwat,

I am writing to return my comments about the draft determination of Southern Water's ODI. These are rather minimal penalties given the levels of destruction we are seeing at the hands of Southern water.

In 2020 alone, Southern water oversaw more than 20,000 storm overflows incidents, totalling more than 200,000 hours of pollution. Meanwhile southern water has made over 200 million profit each year for the last 3 years.

There are more than 4.7 million customers, who are paying Southern water to safely dispose of sewage, and they are failing on their obligations. They are continuing and increasing pollution, all the while continuing to profit from it.

This level of pollution is immoral, disgusting, and illegal. It is as we know it is only permitted by the environment agency for the water companies to spill wastewater in extremely rare circumstances. But Hastings beach has been closed for much of the summer following a string of sewage releases, weekly, sometimes even daily warning of further releases to the sea. This is damaging to the environment, wildlife & people.

Then July 2021 saw a major pipe burst at Bulverhythe, which closed the beach for weeks and caused more than 540 litres a second, of foul water and sewage, to be released onto the local beach. The impacts to people and the environment can are still being seen several months later.

The incident comes just weeks after Southern Water was fined a record-breaking £90 million for thousands of illegal discharges of sewage, which polluted rivers and coastal waters across Kent and Sussex.

This level of pollution is immoral, disgusting, and illegal. It is as we know it is only permitted by the environment agency for the water companies to spill wastewater in extremely rare circumstances.

There is no option for customers to go to another company, we want one that prevents pollution rather than profiting from it. There needs to be a much stronger penalty to actually impact the behaviour of southern water.

We would also like to hear some constructive solutions:-

1. What are southern water's 5-year plans for improvements to prevent foul water storm overflow and raw sewage release?
2. What investments will they make to infrastructure to prevent any further sewage discharges to the sea?
3. What timeframe do they see zero discharge of raw sewage to seas and rivers?
4. How will they pay for this in light of a profit of 200 million a year?

Yours sincerely,

**[REDACTED]**

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