

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 October 2022 15:40
To: in-periodOD s <in-periodOD_s@ofwat.gov.uk>
Subject: Southern Water fine - Consultation

Sirs

understand that Southern Water has been fined:

2019: £126 million
2021: £90 million
2021/2022: £28.3 million

because of sewage discharges that shouldn't have happened.

In March this year my 5 year old granddaughter had to miss a week off school as she was so ill after swimming off Gurnard beach, which the doctor told us was most likely due to pollution from her beach swimming, as there had been other cases of illness that week from people who had been swimming. We also know of a teenager and two over-50's who were ill that week from swimming there. Two weeks later was half-term, and Southern Water discharged (at least) on five days during that week (admittedly the weather was not good then and it had rained). Over the summer Southern Water discharged at Gurnard, or at Cowes (and other places around the Isle of Wight) even when there had been no rain.

The sewer system itself needs upgrading, all over the country, not just the Isle of Wight, with grey water and sewage in separate pipes. Here we have new developments where the pipes from the houses are separated, but they join a combined sewer in the road. The system has become overloaded with old pipes and joints unfit for use, a growing population and over-concreting, etc etc.

In France and Germany, sewer pipes were separated from grey water pipes, in the case of France, in the early 1980's. Every French household had to pay EU500 to pay for this; even in France there was little opposition despite this being a large sum of money for many households, as it was recognised that for a healthy environment for the future this was a necessary evil.

Unfortunately in this country, our sewer system was privatised, and any profit, instead of being ploughed back into sewer improvements, was pocketed by the directors and shareholders, and no upgrading of the system was mandated by government, with the result that we now have a sewerage system unfit for purpose and a disgrace in this era. And probably no household will wish to pay any money whatsoever to a water company for upgrading, as no one will believe that the money will be used for the correct purpose.

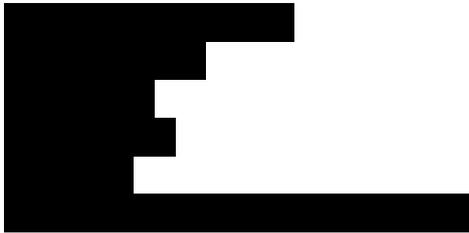
In my case, in the last year, according to my water bill from Southern Water, I have used one third less water than the year before - yet they are still insisting on an increased monthly payment.

But the questions I wish to ask are these: what happens to the fines that Southern Water pay, who do they pay and where does the money come from for them to pay fines? Does the money go into a fund for upgrading the sewer system, or just into government coffers to be spent on who knows what?

I would like to have answers please, and as I don't know who to contact in Ofwat regarding this, I am writing to the Consultation in the hope that someone reads this email.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.