Hedges, Kate (Defra)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 February 2014 16:29
To: [redacted]
Cc: Hedges, Kate (Defra)
Subject:

Dear [redacted],

Kate Hedges forwarded your query regarding Walpole Bay and the projected poor classification under the revised bathing water directive.

Walpole Bay bathing water quality has fluctuated over the past five years. We have been carrying out investigations to identify potential sources of pollution at the bathing water. A partnership group has been created with Thanet District Council and Southern Water Services to investigate ways to improve the bathing water.

Our investigations to date suggest that the potential sources of pollution are localised to Walpole Bay, resulting in poor bathing water quality at this beach. It was also appears that the current EU monitoring point is not representative of an area used by bathers. Therefore a review of beach usage was required.

We conducted bather number surveys for 20 days during July, August and September. The surveys dates included the school holidays, weekends and bank holidays. The weather during these surveys was exceptionally sunny and warm compared to previous years, so the data represents the most users that are likely to use the beach. The data was summarised and presented to Thanet District Council. The main conclusion was that the location of the EU sampling point is not representative of the area used by the public.

We recognize that the local beaches are important to the local community. We will continue to work with Thanet District Council and Southern Water, and take forward any actions that are required to improve the water quality.

I hope I have answered your query. Please let me know if you have any further queries.

Many thanks
[redacted]

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