Hedges, Kate (Defra)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 February 2014 13:02
To: [redacted]
Cc: Hedges, Kate (Defra)
Subject: RE: Re:

Dear [redacted]

Apologies for the delay in responding to you.

The answer to your queries are yes, as already explained by Kate Hedges at Defra. Walpole Bay bathing water is projected to achieve 'poor' classification. Therefore, by the start of 2016 bathing water season, a sign advising against bathing must be displayed for the whole of the 2016 season. This advise sign can be removed if the bathing water improves to the 'sufficient' classification in the next season (2017), and so on. However, if the bathing water continues to be 'poor' for 4 consecutive years, permanent signs advising against bathing must be displayed.

It is worth noting that if a bathing water were to be de-designated, no signs advising against bathing would need to be displayed.

In terms of what is causing poor bathing water quality, urban diffuse pollution (run-off from promenades, urban areas etc.) is likely to be a contributing factor. But as I stated in my previous email, we felt that a review of the bathing water usage was required, as well as considering the sources of pollution.

Many thanks
[redacted]

[redacted]
Environment Monitoring officer (marine)
South East Region
Portfield Depot, Oving Road, Chichester
West Sussex, PO20 2AG

[redacted]
www.environment-agency.gov.uk
external [redacted]
internal [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 February 2014 07:14
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re:

Hi [redacted]
really appreciate the email very informative and helps explain alot.
I have some questions:
so will the beach receive a no bathing sign in 2015?
if a sign is in place can we take it down the following year if water quality improves?
if the water quality at walpole is a result of a localised problem is fair to say that what is contaminating the water is what frames the water IE promenades, urban areas etc dog fowl etc?

thanks so much for your help?

best

[redacted]

On Feb 11, 2014, at 04:28 PM, [redacted] > wrote:

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]

[redacted]

Environment Monitoring officer (marine)

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external [redacted]

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