



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Consultation on the proposal to remove Silloth from the list of designated bathing waters **Summary of responses**

March 2018



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## Background

The objective of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/1675) (“the Regulations”) is to protect bathers’ health against faecal pollution. Popular beaches and inland waters that attract a large number of bathers are designated as bathing waters and water quality is monitored for compliance with the standards that are set out in Schedule 5 of the Regulations. Monitoring is carried out during the bathing season, which in England runs from 15 May to 30 September.

Silloth is being considered for de-designation as a bathing water because of the low level of usage for bathing. A survey during 2014 showed that usage was low, with only twelve people observed bathing or paddling and five taking part in water sports, out of a total of 128 beach users. The results recorded by Environment Agency samplers during their visits in 2015, 2016 and 2017 show that user numbers remain low. Sampling is carried out on 20 days between May and September. The samplers observed four individuals bathing on one occasion in August 2016, but no bathers were recorded in 2015 or 2017.

There are no facilities at the beach to promote bathing and it is considered unsafe for bathing because of strong tidal currents that run along the shoreline.

## Analysis of responses

Defra held a national consultation on the proposal to remove Silloth from the list of bathing waters between 6 May and 17 June 2016. We received three responses, of which two supported de-designation and one opposed the proposal. No evidence or reasons were supplied to support the objection.

## Water quality

Water quality at Silloth was classified as Poor in 2015 and as Sufficient in 2016 and 2017.

## Final decision

Usage for bathing at the site is very low and is expected to continue to be low.

Accordingly, Silloth will be removed from the list of designated bathing waters before the start of the 2018 bathing season.

## Annex A - list of respondents

National Farmers Union

Two private individuals