

The Rt. Hon George Eustice, M.P.  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and  
Rural Affairs  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural  
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**Councillor David Rouane  
Leader of the Council**

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Dear Mr Eustice,

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire Council in relation to water infrastructure investment and strategic local planning. The current lack of coordination between these two interconnected activities has meant that the delivery of new homes has far outstripped the capacity of current sewerage systems. This has regrettably led to an increase in sewage discharges into rivers and streams such as the Thames.

As a Council, we are, therefore, requesting that work takes place to align water company investment strategies and timetables with strategic local planning. This will help to ensure that any proposed infrastructure, such as sewage treatment works, better relates to planned housing development.

In addition, local authorities – like South Oxfordshire – are not currently informed of the specifics regarding sewage treatment capacity and whether any proposed development will lead to an increase in discharges. We are, therefore, also calling for sewerage undertakers to be required to make public up to date information on sewage treatment work capacity and the volume of discharges for all treatment works by the end of 2023.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor David Rouane  
Leader of the Council**