

Debate Pack  
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By Nuala Burnett,  
Iona Stewart,  
Nikki Sutherland

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# Water quality in rivers, lakes and seas

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# 1 Background

A Westminster Hall debate on water quality in rivers, lakes and seas is scheduled to take place on 15 January 2025. The debate was proposed by Catherine Fookes MP (Labour).

## 1.1 Water quality regulation

Water is a devolved policy area, and while comparisons can be made between the different parts of the UK, it is worth noting that these are regulated and governed differently. A brief overview is set out in Table 1:

Table 1 – Environmental regulation of the water sector			
England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Environment Agency (EA), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	Natural Resources Wales (NRW), an agency of the Welsh Government	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), an agency of the Scottish Government	N Ireland Environment Agency (NI EA), an agency of the N Ireland Executive

In England, the Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for regulating water quality. This includes monitoring, testing, and maintaining bathing water quality. In Wales, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has similar responsibilities.

More information about the regulation of the water sector in general (including economic regulation of private water companies in England and Wales) is set out in the Library research briefing [Economic regulation of the water industry](#) (August 2024).

## 1.2

# Causes of poor water quality

There are several contributing factors to poor water quality. Environmental non-governmental organisation the Rivers Trust assesses that 0% of England's river stretches are in good overall health.<sup>1</sup>

## Agriculture and land management

Agriculture and land management activities can contribute to poor water quality, for example through run-off that picks up fertiliser or livestock pollution. These activities are assessed as contributing to 62% of rivers ranked as having poor water quality in England.<sup>2</sup>

Agriculture is responsible for 50-60% of nitrate, 20-30% of phosphorous and 75% of sediment entering water bodies across England and Wales.<sup>3</sup>

## Water company activity – sewage discharges

Water companies contribute to poor water quality in several ways: through discharge of treated or untreated sewage, and through abstraction of groundwater. These activities contribute to 54% of rivers ranked as having poor water quality in England.<sup>4</sup> Sewage discharges have received [widespread media attention](#).

Sewage discharges are the release of raw, untreated sewage into watercourses, such as rivers. These discharges often take place through storm overflow valves, designed to release water from the sewer network when the volume of water is too great for it. [Some use of storm overflows is permitted](#), for example during periods of heavy rainfall, to avoid the sewer network becoming overwhelmed and risking sewage backing up into homes and businesses.

In 2023 there were [464,056 recorded sewage discharges from storm overflows in England](#), lasting a total of 3.6 million hours. Campaigners argue that [many of these discharges are illegal](#), and a [joint investigation from Ofwat and the Environment Agency is ongoing](#).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Rivers Trust, [State of our Rivers Report 2024](#), 202, [accessed January 2025]. The Rivers Trust uses data published by the EA under [The Water Environment \(Water Framework Directive\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2017](#).

<sup>2</sup> The Rivers Trust, [State of our Rivers Report 2024](#), 2024, [accessed January 2025]. The % quoted are all waterbodies with an attribution to these factors (for instance, a river may fail a test of good health for both agricultural and sewage pollution).

<sup>3</sup> Environment Agency, [2021 river basin management plans](#) (PDF), October 2019

<sup>4</sup> The Rivers Trust, [State of our Rivers Report 2024](#), 2024, [accessed January 2025].

<sup>5</sup> Ofwat, [Water companies could face legal action after investigation launched into sewage treatment works](#), 18 November 2021

For more information on sewage pollution, see the Library research briefing on [Sewage discharges](#) (May 2024).

## Urbanisation and transport

Urbanisation can contribute to poor water quality through decreasing permeable surfaces and increasing surface water run-off, which in turn picks up more chemicals and transport pollutants than in rural areas. Increasing construction and homebuilding may also increase the volume of pollutants entering urban watercourses. These activities are assessed as contributing to 26% of rivers ranked as having poor water quality in England.<sup>6</sup>

# 1.3

## Statistics on water quality in England

Water quality is assessed through the use of several different indicators. 16% of all assessed surface waters and 79% of individual tests achieve good ecological status in England at the date of last measurement.

The diagrams below list the main indicators used and the proportion of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters in England which achieved good status under each at the date of last measurement. Figures are percentages of water bodies assessed, and where referred to as 'at good status' this is good or better status/potential.<sup>7</sup>

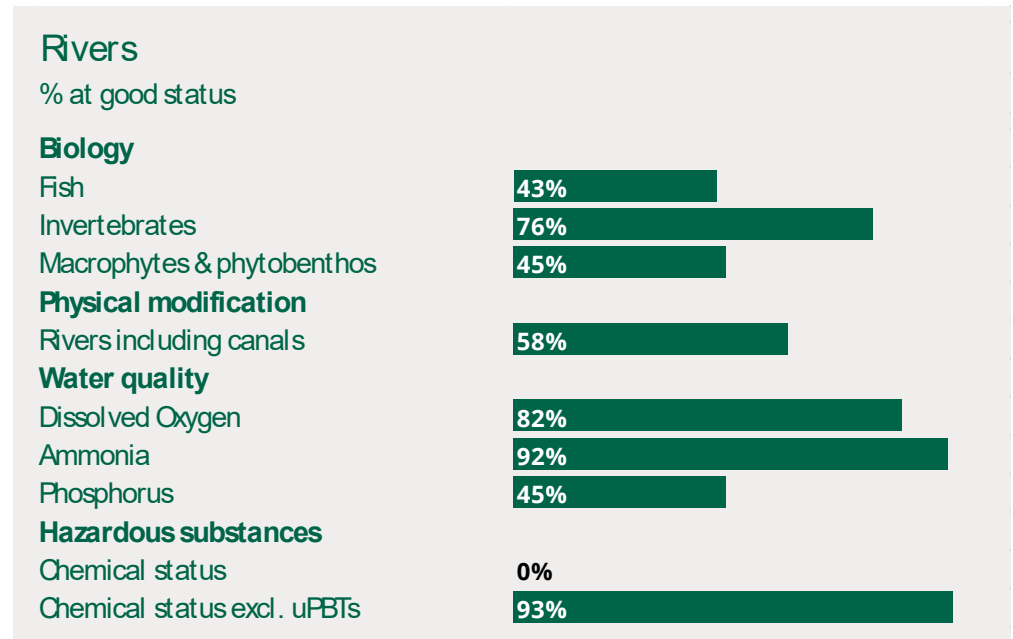
### Rivers

14% of rivers achieved good ecological status.

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<sup>6</sup> Ofwat, [Water companies could face legal action after investigation launched into sewage treatment works](#), 18 November 2021

<sup>7</sup> Environment Agency, [State of the water environment indicator B3: supporting evidence](#), 17 May 2024

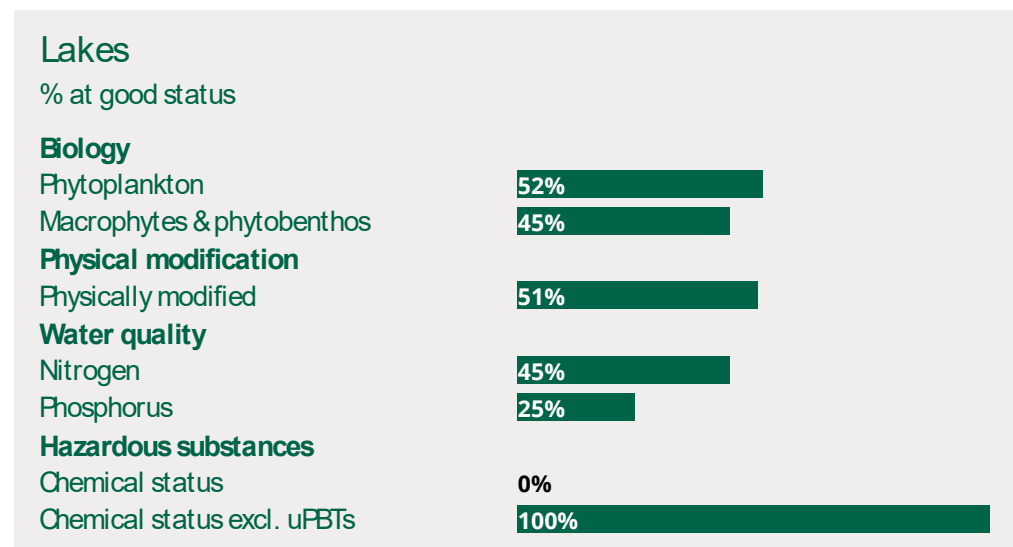


Notes: uPBTs are ubiquitous, persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic substances

Source: Environment Agency, [State of the water environment indicator B3: supporting evidence](#), 17 May 2024

### Lakes

14% of assessed lakes are at good ecological status.

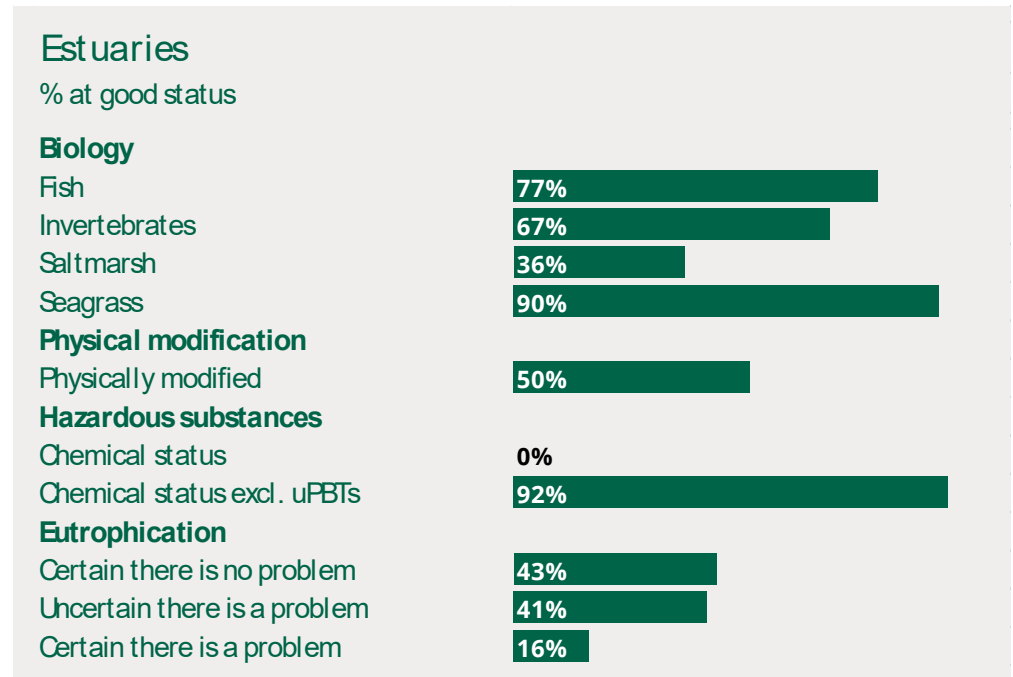


Notes: uPBTs are ubiquitous, persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic substances

Source: Environment Agency, [State of the water environment indicator B3: supporting evidence](#), 17 May 2024

### Estuaries

19% of assessed estuaries achieve good ecological status.

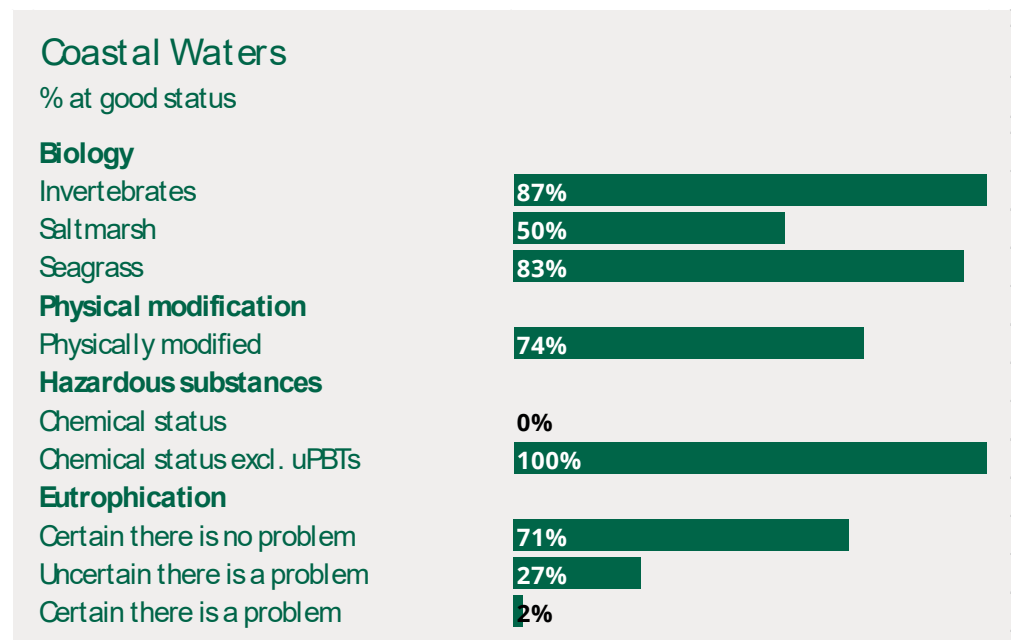


Notes: uPBTs are ubiquitous, persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic substances

Source: Environment Agency, [State of the water environment indicator B3: supporting evidence](#), 17 May 2024

### Coastal waters

45% of assessed coastal waters are at good ecological status.



Notes: uPBTs are ubiquitous, persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic substances

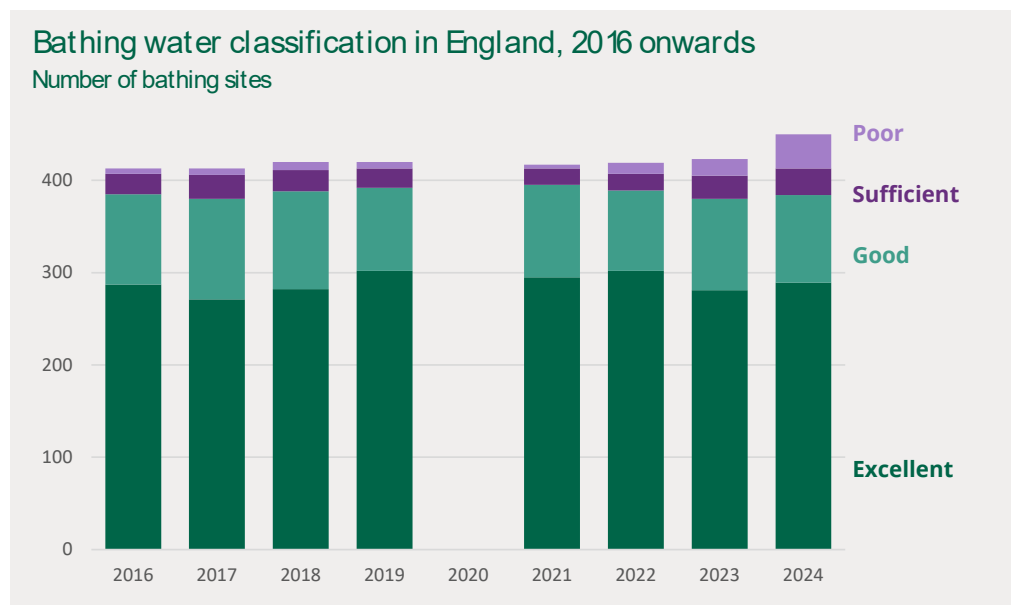
Source: Environment Agency, [State of the water environment indicator B3: supporting evidence](#), 17 May 2024

## Bathing waters

Bathing waters are designated areas of coastal or inland water that meet [specified criteria on number of users and access requirements as set out by Defra](#).

In 2024, out of the 450 bathing waters measured in England, 37 (8%) bathing waters were classified as 'Poor'. The remaining 413 (92%) of bathing waters met at least the minimum standard of the Bathing Water Regulations, of these 289 (64%) met the 'Excellent' standard.<sup>8</sup>

The chart below shows how bathing water classifications have changed over time. Please note that data was not collected in 2024, and that the number of sites designated bathing waters has increased over time.



Source: Defra, [2024 Statistics on English coastal and inland bathing waters: A summary of compliance with the 2013 bathing water regulations](#), 26 November 2024

## 1.4

## Statistics on water quality in Wales

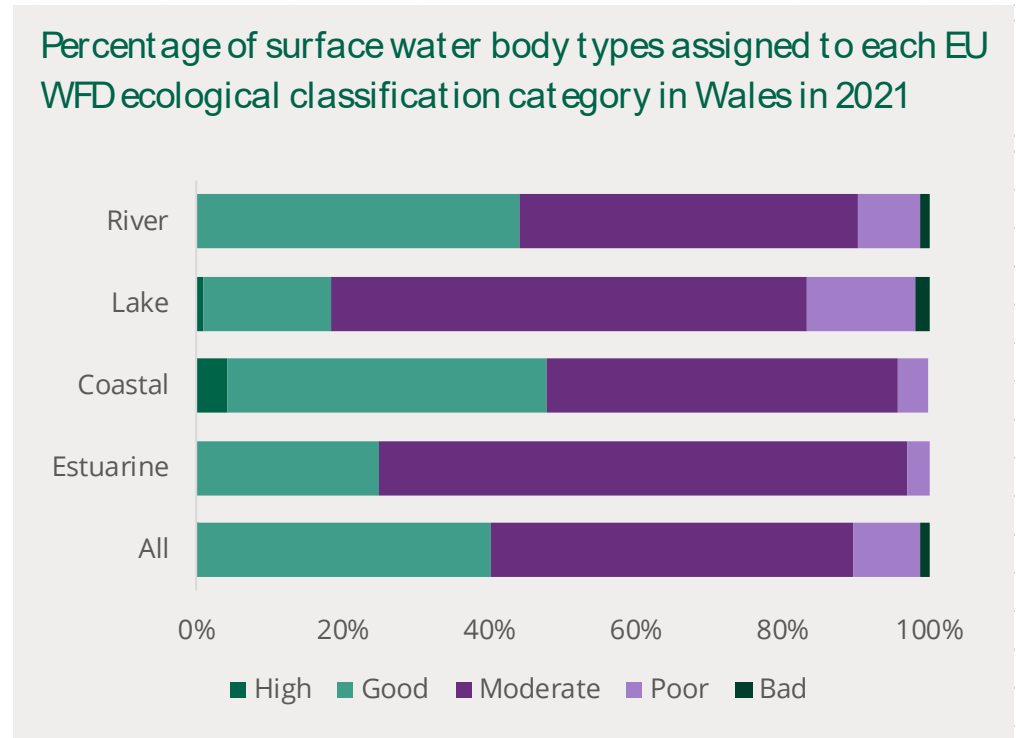
The [2021-27 River basin management plans \(RBMPs\)](#) contain the latest set of classifications for water bodies in Wales. They reported that 40% of the 905 surface waters in Wales have an overall status of good or better.

The chart below summarises the ecological status classifications for surface water bodies across the Welsh part of the Severn, Dee, and

<sup>8</sup> Source: Defra, [2024 Statistics on English coastal and inland bathing waters: A summary of compliance with the 2013 bathing water regulations](#), 26 November 2024



Western Wales river basins in 2021. This shows coastal waters generally have higher ecological status than inland waters.



Notes: The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 ('WFD 2017'), are the primary mechanism for assessing and managing the water environment in Wales. They transpose and implement water quality standards from the EU's 2000 Water Framework Directive ('EU WFD'), and place a statutory duty on the Welsh Ministers to prevent deterioration and improve all water bodies to 'good status' by 2027.

Source: 2021-27 RBMPs for the [Dee, Western Wales](#) and [Welsh part of the Severn](#)

### Bathing waters

In Wales, 110 designated bathing waters were sampled and classified during the 2024 bathing season. 108 (98%) met the minimum water quality standards. Of these, 75 (68%) achieved the highest classification of Excellent, 28 (25%) achieved Good and 5 (5%) achieved Sufficient. 2 were classified as Poor. These results remained fairly consistent compared with the classifications at the end of the 2023 season.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Natural Resources Wales, [Wales Bathing Water Report 2024](#)

## 1.5 Statistics on water quality in Scotland

The proportion of Scotland's water environment in high/good condition in 2023 was 67.9%. For rivers it was 58.2%, lochs 69.8%, estuaries 87.5%, coastal 99.6%, groundwater 85.9%.<sup>10</sup>

### Bathing waters

In Scotland, 89 designated bathing waters were sampled and classified during the 2024 bathing season. 86 (97%) met the minimum water quality standards. Of these, 50 (56%) achieved the highest classification of Excellent, 27 (30%) achieved Good and 9 (10%) achieved Sufficient. 3 were classified as Poor.<sup>11</sup>

## 1.6 Statistics on water quality in Northern Ireland

In 2021 less than one third of Northern Ireland's rivers had good ecological status, representing no improvement since 2015. In the case of lakes, only 14 per cent of were classified as having good ecological status in 2021 (down from around 24 per cent in 2015).<sup>12</sup>

### Bathing waters

In Northern Ireland, 26 designated bathing waters were sampled and classified during the 2024 bathing season. All of them met the minimum water quality standards. 22 (85%) achieved the highest classification of Excellent, 2 (8%) achieved Good and 2 (8%) achieved Sufficient.<sup>13</sup>

## 1.7 Citizen science

Citizen scientists have driven an increase in monitoring of water pollution, particularly in relation to bathing water sites. For example, the charity/campaign group Surfers Against Sewage run the '[safer seas and rivers service](#)' which tracks real time sewage pollution across the UK.

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<sup>10</sup> Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), [2023 Classification summary report](#), July 2024

<sup>11</sup> SEPA, [Record number of Excellent Bathing Waters in Scotland for 2025](#), 19 November 2024

<sup>12</sup> Northern Ireland Audit Office, [Water Quality in Northern Ireland's Rivers and Lakes](#), 25 March 2024

<sup>13</sup> Daera, [About bathing water quality](#)

Additionally, many local groups and organisations have campaigned for their local areas to become designated bathing waters, requiring monitoring from the EA during bathing water season. Surfers Against Sewage said that campaigns it supported were responsible for the designation of 13 of the new bathing waters designated in 2024.<sup>14</sup>

## 1.8 UK Government targets and action

### Targets

The government has several different targets (underpinned by different pieces of legislation) that apply to water quality:

- restoring 77% of water bodies to achieve or maintain good ecological status or potential by 2027 under [The Water Environment \(Water Framework Directive\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2017](#)
- restoring 75% of water bodies in England to good ecological status “as soon as is practicable” under the [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#) (the EIP is [currently under review](#)), and
- a legally binding target to reduce nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment loadings on the water environment from diffuse agricultural pollution by 40% in 2038 (compared to a 2018 baseline) under the [Environment Act 2021](#), with an interim target of 10% reduction by 2028.

There are additional targets that apply to sewage discharges and these are set out in the Library research briefing on [Sewage discharges](#) (May 2024).

### Policy

The government’s policy approach to the water sector is set out in the overarching [Plan for Water](#) (April 2023) and the [Environmental Improvement Plan](#) (January 2023, [currently under review](#)). Both of these were published under the previous government. Both of these plans apply to England, and other parts of the UK are responsible for preparing their own plans.

Following the general election, the Labour Government set out its priorities for Defra; these included “cleaning up Britain’s rivers, lakes and

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<sup>14</sup> Outdoor Swimmer magazine, [Why bathing waters matter and how to get more of them](#), 18 November 2024

seas”.<sup>15</sup> On 11 July 2024, Environment Secretary Steve Reed set out [new measures to “reform the water sector”](#), comprising of immediate action to ringfence infrastructure funding, change water company Articles of Association to include a focus on environment, introducing new consumer powers, and increasing compensation for customers.<sup>16</sup>

### Water (Special Measures) Bill

The government introduced its [Water \(Special Measures\) Bill](#) in the House of Lords on 4 September 2024. Its long title is “a bill to make provision about the regulation, governance and special administration of water companies.” These provisions will enable the government and regulators to block the payment of bonuses for water company executives, bring criminal charges against those who break the law, enable automatic and “severe” fines, and ensure the monitoring of every sewage outlet. It applies to England and Wales.

More information and stakeholder response is set out in the Library briefing [Water \(Special Measures\) Bill 2024-2025 - House of Commons Library](#) (December 2024).

### Independent Commission and further legislation

When announcing the Water (Special Measures) Bill, the government said that it planned to carry out a “full review” of the way in which the water industry is regulated, and that this would shape further legislation.<sup>17</sup>

This ‘full review’ refers to the [Independent Commission into the water sector and its regulation](#) launched by the UK and Welsh governments on 23 October 2024. Defra said that it is “expected to form the largest review of the industry since privatisation” and that this forms the next stage in the government’s long-term approach to water.<sup>18</sup>

The commission will report to the government by the second quarter of 2025 (1 April 2025) with recommendations “on how to tackle inherited systemic issues in the water sector to restore our rivers, lakes and seas to good health, meet the challenges of the future and drive economic growth.” It will be chaired by the former governor of the Bank of England, Jon Cunliffe, with a panel of experts from different sectors. Defra said that recommendations from the water review “will form the basis of further

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<sup>15</sup> Defra (@DefraGovUK), [X \(Twitter\)](#), 8 July 2024; Defra, [Speech at the Defra Summer stakeholder reception](#), 31 July 2024

<sup>16</sup> Defra, [Government announces first steps to reform water sector](#), 11 July 2024

<sup>17</sup> HCWS 3 [on [Water Sector Reform: First Steps](#)], 18 July 2024

<sup>18</sup> Defra, [Governments launch largest review of sector since privatisation](#), 22 October 2024; Defra, [Independent commission on the water sector regulatory system: terms of reference](#), 23 October 2024

legislation to attract long-term investment and clean up our waters for good.”<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Defra, [Governments launch largest review of sector since privatisation](#), 22 October 2024

## 2 Parliamentary and press coverage

### 2.1 Parliamentary material

#### Statements

Written statement - [Reforms to The Bathing Water Regulations 2013](#)

HCWS207 | 12 November 2024 HCWS207

Emma Hardy | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Our water system urgently needs fixing. There have been repeated failures for the public and record levels of sewage polluting our rivers, lakes and seas. This must be stopped. Fundamental reform of the water sector is underway but will not happen overnight. This Government is committed to reforming the system, so it works for the public, and is taking further steps to restore our rivers, lakes and seas to good health.

Bathing waters, as set out in The Bathing Water Regulations 2013, are designated coastal or inland waters that are used by large numbers of people for bathing. Bathing waters are one of the most visible ways in which the public interacts with the water environment. They are local assets that bring social and health benefits to communities, and it is critical that the regulations around bathing waters meet the fundamental needs of the public, and those managing bathing water sites.

We recognise that the way the public interacts with bathing waters has changed, driven by the increasing popularity of wild swimming and other water-based activities.

That is why today, Defra, jointly with the Welsh Government, is launching a consultation on a package of reforms to The Bathing Water Regulations 2013. These proposed changes to bathing water rules will prioritise public safety and water quality so more people can enjoy our rivers, lakes and seas throughout the seasons. The proposed reforms will modernise the system to meet the needs of the public, including removing strict automatic de-designation, taking water quality and public safety into account when applications for new bathing waters are assessed, and removing the fixed dates of the bathing season from the Regulations to allow for a more flexible approach to monitoring, extending the dates of the bathing season where necessary to better reflect when people use bathing waters. The purpose of the Regulations is to ensure the protection of public health through the use of monitoring and classifications. It is the Government's intention to pursue an increase in the designation of safe bathing water sites.

Defra is also seeking both public and stakeholder views on expanding the definition of bathers to include participants in water sports other than swimming, to encompass all who use bathing sites, as well as views on the introduction of multiple testing points at each bathing water. This is to gather initial views for potential longer-term considerations.

Proposed technical amendments will also bring legislation in line with modern best practice, allowing the Environment Agency to improve ways of working and improve delivery for the public.

The consultation will run this winter with a Government response to be published in the new year.

Alongside these reforms, the Government is working on other major changes to the water system. The Water (Special Measures) Bill will deliver on the Government's commitment to put water companies under special measures, strengthening the powers of the regulators to ensure that water companies – and their executives – are firmly held to account for wrongdoing. The regulators will also be able to recover costs for a much greater range of enforcement activities.

An Independent Commission into the water sector and its regulation was also launched on 23 October - the largest review of the industry since privatisation. This Commission forms the next stage in the Government's long-term approach to ensuring we have a sufficiently robust and stable regulatory framework to attract the investment needed to clean up our waterways, speed up infrastructure delivery and restore public confidence in the sector. The Commission will provide overarching recommendations on transforming how our water system works and cleaning up our rivers, lakes and seas for good. The Bathing Water Reforms will tackle a discrete and technical part of the current framework.

It is through these reforms that we can begin to regain public trust, fix the system, and restore our rivers, lakes and seas for current and future generations to enjoy.

Commons statement followed by questions - [Independent Water Commission](#)

HC Deb 23 October 2024 | Vol 755 cc279-298

## PQs

### Rivers: Standards

Asked by: Kohler, Mr Paul

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to improve the water quality of chalk streams.

Answering member: Emma Hardy | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Chalk streams are one of the rarest freshwater habitats on Earth and England is home to 85% of them. The Government is committed to the protection and restoration of our cherished chalk streams.

The best way to achieve this is by fixing the framework for managing our water system. We have also commissioned an independent commission of the water sector to clean up our rivers, lakes and seas for good.

HC Deb 19 December 2024 | PQ 901885

### Support for Victims of Ecocide

Asked by: Dr Chambers

England is home to 85% of the world's chalk streams, which are very rare habitats. In Winchester we are lucky to have the Rivers Itchen and Meon running through the constituency. We know that they are struggling, with only 17% of chalk streams rated as having good ecological health. That is partly because of over-abstraction, partly because of pollution, and partly because of water companies dumping sewage in them. We know that that not only destroys biodiversity but makes people who swim in it sick. Will the Minister, in addition to coming down harder on water companies, commit to implementing a sewage victims compensation scheme for that particular problem?

Answering member: Alex Davies-Jones | Department: Justice

I will ensure that the hon. Member's comments are passed to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Minister responsible for water quality. I can confirm that we are committed to delivering for nature, taking action to meet our targets in the Environment Act 2021, and that we work in partnership with civil society, communities and businesses to restore and protect our natural world.



HC Deb 10 December 2024 | Vol 758 c777

Water: Standards

Asked by: van Mierlo, Freddie

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he has made an assessment of the adequacy of the powers of the Environmental Agency to (a) monitor and (b) maintain bathing water (i) status and (ii) quality.

Answering member: Emma Hardy | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Environment Agency (EA) is the appropriate agency for monitoring and managing bathing waters in England. Their operational duties ensure the required testing and monitoring of bathing waters, and pollution risk forecasting during the bathing season. On 12 November, Defra also launched a consultation on reforms to the Bathing Water Regulations 2013. This consultation detailed proposals that included moving the fixed dates of the bathing season from Regulations into guidance and considering a sites water quality prior to designation. These proposals would allow the EA greater flexibility when monitoring sites and a more targeted approach to maintaining their status and quality.

HC Deb 27 November 2024 | PQ 15606

Water: Standards

Asked by: van Mierlo, Freddie

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to help ensure high quality water in bathing water designated areas inland.

Answering member: Emma Hardy | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Designated bathing waters are monitored by the Environment Agency (EA) throughout the bathing season which enables them to assess what action is needed to improve water quality. Sites which receive classifications of poor standard will be subject to an action and improvement plan between the EA, local stakeholders and water companies. Defra also recently launched a consultation on reforms to the Bathing Water Regulations 2013. The three core proposals details in this consultation seek to bring the designation and monitoring process in line with how bathing waters are used today, and ensure it is fit for purpose for inland sites.

HC Deb 27 November 2024 | PQ 15605

Sewage: Waste Disposal

Asked by: Farron, Tim

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what information his Department holds on how frequently the Environment Agency reviews environmental permits issued to sewerage undertakers under the Environment Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

Answering member: Emma Hardy | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Environment Agency (EA) periodically reviews environmental permits issued to sewerage undertakers under the Environment Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 to ensure they remain effective and fit for purpose. There is no set frequency for reviewing all permits. The EA undertakes reviews in response to specific triggers, such as new environmental legislation, updated water quality standards, or significant operational changes at sewage treatment facilities.

In addition, the EA conducts routine compliance checks and inspections of sewerage undertakers to assess their adherence to permit conditions. These checks may lead to further review or variation of a permit if necessary to improve environmental protections.

The EA will take action against non-compliance. We will not let companies get away with illegal activity and where breaches are found, we will not hesitate to hold companies to account.

HC Deb 17 October 2024 | PQ 8418

Rivers: Standards

Asked by: Reynolds, Mr Joshua

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to improve the water quality of rivers.

Answering member: Emma Hardy | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

After 14 years of Conservative failure, we share the public's fury at the levels of sewage being released into our rivers, lakes and seas.

That is why this Government has introduced legislation to put the water companies under special measures to end their disgraceful behaviour. But this is not all we are doing.

We will outline further legislation to fundamentally transform how the water industry is run and speed up the delivery of upgrades to our sewage infrastructure to clean up our waterways for good.

HC Deb 13 September 2024 | PQ 900430

### Water: Standards

Asked by: Darling, Steve

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will take steps to ensure water quality monitoring data is published all year round.

Answering member: Emma Hardy | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Environment Act places monitoring duties on the water industry to improve transparency and reduce harm from sewage discharges. As outlined in Section 82, the Continuous Water Quality Monitoring programme will require water companies to continuously measure the quality of water upstream and downstream of their storm overflows and sewage disposal works.

In addition, the Government's Water (Special Measures) Bill will require independent event duration monitoring of all sewage outlets, to support greater scrutiny of water company activity.

HC Deb 05 September 2024 | PQ 2585

### Swimming: Coastal Areas

Asked by: Darling, Steve

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he plans to take to help improve the quality of bathing water around Britain's shores.

Answering member: Emma Hardy | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

During the bathing water season, the Environment Agency (EA) will carry out a sampling programme at the 451 designated bathing water sites in England to provide robust monitoring of water quality. The EA will also

have action plans with clear objectives for every designated bathing water that is classified 'poor' or is at risk of being so.

Targeted action and partnership working can have a significant positive impact on bathing water quality and the EA will work with partners, water companies and local communities to improve and protect water quality.

The Water (Special Measures) Bill also delivers on our manifesto commitment to put water companies under tough special measures by strengthening regulation and begin the work of cleaning up our rivers, lakes, bathing waters and seas.

HC Deb 05 September 2024 | PQ 2583

## 2.2

## News items

BBC News Online

3 November 2024

[Protesters call on government to tackle water pollution](#)

Swim England

23 October 2024

[Clean Water Sports Alliance welcomes announcement on new water commission](#)

BBC News Online

22 October 2024

['Sorry' water boss has plan to end sewage spillages](#)

BBC News Online

17 October 2024

[How much raw sewage is released into lakes, rivers and the sea?](#)

BBC News Online

28 September 2024

[Do more to treat polluted water, boss tells government](#)

Wales Online

7 September 2024

[Wales's most protected river which is actually full of poo](#)

Cardiff University

5 September 2024

[Focus on phosphate not a “silver-bullet” for River Wye’s water quality problems, report finds](#)

Water Magazine

23 July 2024

[Good progress made on reducing phosphorous in rivers as Dŵr Cymru spends £483m to improve services](#)

Eddie

11 July 2024

[Defra unveils steps to end sewage dumping and clean polluted rivers](#)

BBC News Online

9 July 2024

[Swimmers and surfers asked to help pollution study](#)

Farmers Weekly

1 June 2024

[How Brecon Beacons farmers are improving water quality](#)

Guardian

15 May 2024

['Someone is going to die': MPs warned of E coli risk to swimmers in English waters](#)

BBC News Online

9 May 2024

[England river clean-up effort 'poor', says watchdog](#)

## 2.3

## Further reading

Library publications:

- Commons Library, [Water \(Special Measures\) Bill 2024-2025 - House of Commons Library](#) (December 2024)
- Commons Library, [Sewage discharges](#), May 2024
- Commons Library, [Economic regulation of the water industry](#), August 2024
- Commons Library, [Flood risk management and funding](#), November 2024
- Senedd Cymru, [Water quality in Wales](#) (PDF), August 2023

Other sources:

- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), [UKBI - Surface water status](#), updated 2024, [accessed January 2025]
- The Rivers Trust, [State of our Rivers Report 2024](#), [accessed January 2025]

- Green Alliance, [Ten recommendations to prevent water pollution from agriculture](#) (PDF), November 2024
- Environmental Audit Committee, [Water Quality in Rivers](#) (PDF), 13 January 2022

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