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Good Afternoon

I trust you are well. I am a little surprised to have not heard from yourself or Liv Garfield (CEO) after your stakeholder event last Wednesday and your public acknowledgement to deal with the issues I raised. I do have a copy of your email to a farmer who attended where you hold the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England (NE) responsible, I am aware of the 9 October meeting, it was hard fought for by the National Farmers Union (NFU) and I welcome it, but the below questions still need to be addressed please:

- Confirmation of an immediate stop to intimidating, bullying, heavy handed approaches and disrespect shown to many farmers since November 2023 on both the proposed pipeline to Catton and now the new route to the river Tame at Elford by your representatives and agents. It is causing mental distress and fear as businesses face disruption and livelihoods may cease.
- An immediate hold on the project with a high-level meeting of all stakeholders, if needs be with the Secretary of State as you suggested, to ensure data is still correct with new climate modelling. The cost benefit analysis needs to be published, and appropriate mitigations are put in place for landowners and businesses for the damage including but not limited to:
 1. Hedge damage.
 2. Biodiversity loss.
 3. Damage to Best and Most Versatile soil (BMV) and land drains.
 4. Loss of agricultural businesses revenue during the works.
 5. Costs of employing agents to quantify the costs.
 6. Losses from businesses which rely on abstraction from the river Mease for the growing of crops such as fruit and potatoes supplied to large Midland's employers. Very few farmers can grow these crops nationwide.
- Sight and publishing of the full cost benefit analysis of the potential 24km, 50m wide trench laying twin 1200mm pipes that is currently proposed from Packington Sewage works through Chilcote, Harleston and Elford and crosses the river Mease three times. This involves 100 landowners/farmers and will cost between 50-100 million pounds.



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- All farmers stopped from abstracting from the River Mease, who need this to fulfil potato and food contracts, are fully reimbursed for new reservoirs and costs - failure to do this will end these businesses.
- Transparent engagement involving residents and Parish Councils at this stage.
- I asked at the stakeholder event - is it true that the original proposed pipeline was from Packington to Staunton Harold (a reservoir), but the EA refused a permit due to water quality – please confirm.
- I asked at the stakeholder event for a detailed explanation to the answer obtained from the Seven Trent Environmental Information Request (EIR) stating the new pipeline into the Tame/Trent “operation of storm overflows at these two sites will be limited to no more than 10 discharge events of partially treated sewage a year” I asked how long a discharge would be an hour or three weeks you failed to reply.
- It is understood that the Mease is to be protected, but, according to Staffordshire Trent Valley abstraction licensing strategy, by the 2050’s river flow could be 65% lower than now due to climate change. This will lead to a far increased density of pollution than what you are proposing - has this been taken into account?
- The river Trent is seeing increased flooding and levels yearly, so has the EA modelling for the new Walton Bypass, currently at planning at both SDDC and Staffordshire Borough Council, been given your water discharge rates to allow the EA to factor in the additional flood modelling to their statutory consultation?

Every landowner and farmer who has contacted me cannot understand why NW Leicestershire cannot treat the water properly at Packington and release clean water back into their own rivers, the river Trent has many water sports, swimming, rowing, and angling clubs and zero storm discharges should be allowed. I note Yorkshire water are creating new wetlands at the South Elmsall wastewater treatment works, have these types of works been looked at?

I look forward to your response,

Regards

Amy Wheelton
Independent Seales District Councillor