

Lib Dem investigation reveals sewage cover up

Water firms are failing to disclose how much sewage is being discharged into rivers, lakes and coastlines.

Environmental Information Requests by the Liberal Democrats revealed that water firms could be guilty of a scandalous cover up.

We have no idea how many billions of litres of sewage is being pumped into our precious rivers and lakes. The true extent of environmental damage caused by this scandal is completely unknown.

Tim Farron

The staggering admission follows public outrage at water companies destroying the environment with sewage discharges. Currently, water firms only provide the length of sewage discharges, broken down by time. However, they refuse to publish the volume and litres of sewage discharged, essential information for understanding the environmental impacts.



Thames Water said they did not hold the volume data, however, the firm has previously made public that some of its monitors do measure volume. Last year it was reported Thames Water pumped over two billion litres of sewage into the Thames over a 48 hour period. This data was not given when Thames Water responded to the Environmental Information Request.

Meanwhile, Scottish Water does publish the volume of sewage discharged into waterways. Scottish Water's sewage monitors revealed that 174 million m³ of sewage has been dumped into Scotland's rivers, lakes and coastal waters since 2018, with 47 million m³ in 2022. Unlike England and Wales just a small proportion of Scotland's storm overflows have monitors installed.

The Liberal Democrats believe the industry is either not telling the truth on holding the data, or it has installed inadequate sewage monitors. Previous analysis by the party has found one in six sewage monitors were broken last year.

Ministers need to get tougher on these water firms by demanding they fit proper sewage monitors which are up to the job. The Government is letting water firms get away with faulty and flawed monitors.

Tim Farron

Stop Sewage Dumping

Tax water companies' huge profits and fix our sewage system.

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[Liberal Democrats WIN Somerton and Frome](#)

The Liberal Democrats have delivered another shocking blow to the Conservative government by winning in Somerton and Frome.

Sarah Dyke overturned a Conservative majority of 19,213.

Sarah polled 21,187 votes, winning a majority of 11,008 with a swing of 29%.

What a night. What a result. Somerton and Frome has spoken for the country and sent a message to this appalling government. Ringmaster Rishi is out of touch, out of ideas and out of excuses. Time for a General Election to end this Conservative circus and get these clowns out.

– [Ed Davey \(@EdwardJDavey\) July 21, 2023](#)

The extraordinary efforts of Liberal Democrat members and volunteers delivered this historic result, securing the largest majority and swing on an explosive triple byelection night which saw the Conservatives lose 2 of the 3 seats they were fighting desperately to defend.

The people of Somerton and Frome have spoken for the country. Enough is Enough. It is time for a general election to end this Conservative circus.

[You can watch the iconic byelection stunt back on our Twitter account here](#)

This victory is further proof that in vast swathes of the country, the best way to get rid of this Conservative government is to vote for the Liberal Democrats.

Four historic by-election results in two years shows clearly that the Liberal Democrats are a force to be reckoned with. We are going from strength to strength, as voters across the country are backing hard working Liberal Democrat candidates who fight hard for their area.

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[Happy 75th birthday to our NHS](#)

On its 75th birthday the NHS remains as important as ever to all of us.

Our fantastic NHS staff treat more than a million people a day, dispense almost a billion prescriptions a year, and kept us safe throughout the Covid pandemic by administering more than 150 million vaccines.

I count myself amongst the majority of people who say the NHS makes them proud to be British.

But sadly, despite this, every area of the NHS is under strain and it is in such a state that many fear for its survival.



People are struggling to get an appointment with their GP, loved ones wait in pain for hours for an ambulance, and those that cannot afford it are now often forced to turn to DIY dentistry.

Let's be clear though, this isn't due to strikes or inefficiency as the Conservatives might want us to believe, or a fundamental issue with the NHS's founding principles, but the symptoms of years of mismanagement and

incompetence from this Conservative Government.

They have overseen the NHS almost with a lack of interest, and even when they do kick into gear, they bring forward short-term sticking plasters or schemes that are either too late or completely ineffectual.

High-quality healthcare, free at the point of use, is essential for individual freedom and good health gives people the freedom to live the lives they choose. And that's why as Liberals we have always championed the NHS.

We were there at its founding, and helped forge this national institution on the proposals set out in the Beveridge report in 1942.

And we're here now still fighting for those values across the country.

The next election will give us a real chance to show the country what the Conservative's dereliction of duty means for their health, and what our plans are to do something about it.

The Liberal Democrats are proud to be champions of the NHS and we will always fight to ensure that the care everyone receives is based on their need, not their ability to pay.

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Windrush 75

Today is Windrush Day – where we acknowledge the outstanding economic, social, and cultural contribution the Windrush generation have made to the United Kingdom.

It feels fitting to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the HMT Empire Windrush in Britain nearly simultaneously with the NHS's 75th birthday. **The Windrush generation was instrumental in building the NHS**, one of our country's greatest achievements.

It's just one example of how the Windrush generation has enriched our country – from culture and cuisine to the economy. Their hard work and determination helped to rebuild Britain in our time of need, and I am forever grateful.

As we honour the legacy of the Windrush generation, we owe it to them to stand up to bigotry, hate and injustice.

But too many of them became the victims of the appalling Windrush Scandal at the hands of the Home Office. People who have every right to live in the UK were wrongly denied access to NHS treatment, housing and other services simply because they didn't have the right documents to prove it. Innocent people were made homeless, detained and even deported.

The Conservative Government should be working tirelessly to right the wrongs of this country's treatment of people who have given so much to us.

But let's be clear – **this scandal is nowhere near over.** Only one in four

applicants to the Windrush compensation scheme have received payments, with some people even tragically passing away before they can receive their compensation.

Yet now, we are hearing that Suella Braverman is considering scrapping vital recommendations from the Windrush Lessons Learned review. Conservative ministers seem disturbingly determined to repeat their past mistakes.

We acknowledge the outstanding economic, social, and cultural contribution the Windrush generation have made to the United Kingdom.

This anniversary is both a celebration and a sobering reminder that here in

the UK, far too many people's lives are still blighted by discrimination, inequality and injustice.

So **Liberal Democrats will keep campaigning to abolish the Conservatives' cruel and discriminatory Hostile Environment**, and end the disproportionate use of Stop and Search.

And **we will keep working to combat racism** – whether conscious or unconscious, individual or institutional – wherever we find it.

As we honour the legacy of the Windrush generation, we owe it to them to stand up to bigotry, hate and injustice. I hope you will join me in this fight.

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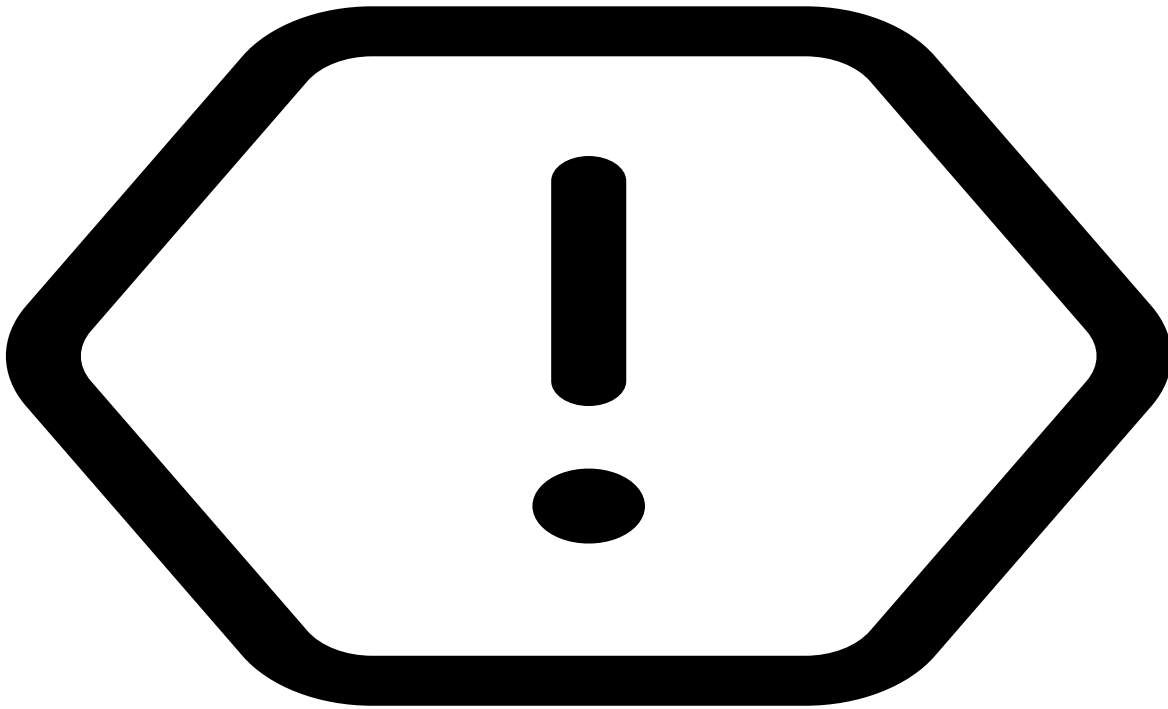
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[Lib Dems select Emma Holland-Lindsay as Mid Bedfordshire by-election candidate](#)

The Liberal Democrats have unveiled local councillor Emma Holland-Lindsay as their candidate for the upcoming Mid Bedfordshire by-election.

Emma grew up in Bedfordshire and lives locally, and is currently councillor on Central Bedfordshire Council representing Leighton Buzzard. Emma is a member of the senior leadership team at a nationwide women's charity and has previously worked for national disability charities.

Her by-election campaign will focus on local health services starved of Government funding. Local people are unable to see a GP after a surge in housebuilding and no new investment in health services.



"It is an honour to have been selected as the Liberal Democrat candidate for my local area, and I am determined to be a strong local champion for communities across Bedfordshire.

"For too long Mid-Bedfordshire has been taken for granted by the Conservative party. Our local health services have been neglected and underfunded, leaving local people unable to see their GP or dentist. It is frankly scandalous what this Government has done to our NHS in Bedfordshire.

"I will fight tirelessly for our local health services. We desperately need more GPs and NHS dentists, as well as urgent repairs for Luton and Dunstable Hospital. Frontline NHS workers are this country's heroes, yet they have been left overstretched and overworked by this Conservative Government."

Emma Holland-Lindsay

Liberal Democrat candidate for Mid Bedfordshire

In recent days, betting companies Ladbrokes and Betfred have both declared the Liberal Democrats as favourite to win, with Labour a distant third.

The Liberal Democrats have proven to be the best challengers against the Conservative party in Bedfordshire. The party made major gains in May to oust the Conservative party from controlling Central Bedfordshire, and have also run Bedford Borough Council for almost two decades. The constituency is also neighboured by Liberal Democrat MPs including Sarah Green, winner of the Chesham and Amersham by-election, where Ed Davey famously knocked down the Blue Wall.

“Emma will make a fantastic member of Parliament for Mid-Bedfordshire. Emma is a true local champion and stands up for people across Bedfordshire, and I’ve seen first hand her selfless campaigns to save vital health services.

“When I visited Mid-Bedfordshire I heard loud and clear from local people who are fed up with being taken for granted by this Conservative Government. I heard from families and pensioners who find it almost impossible to see their GP. Mid-Bedfordshire deserves better than this.

“The Conservative chaos in Westminster has to end. We need a Government focussed on the cost of living crisis and the NHS. Mid-Bedfordshire can send this Conservative Government a message.”

Ed Davey

Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Help Emma win in Bedfordshire
– back her campaign

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