

News story: South West Water fined for Devon sewage spill

South West Water has been ordered to pay £86,000 in fines and costs for discharging sewage into Dawlish Water over a bank holiday weekend. The case was brought by the Environment Agency.

On 28 August 2015 an automatic alarm was triggered in Brook Street after a blockage in a pipe caused sewage to leak into nearby Dawlish Water, a stream that runs through the centre of the town.

The alarm sounded at 8.15am, but the water company didn't dispatch an emergency crew to deal with the problem until 11.40am. Instead of going to Brook Street, it went to Brook House in another part of Dawlish and reported nothing was wrong. It wasn't until a second team arrived, some 6 hours after the alarm sounded, that the discharge was discovered and steps were finally taken to stop the pollution.

The problem was caused by a brick which had somehow entered and blocked the sewer causing it to overflow.

This combined sewage overflow pipe was blocked and discharged into Dawlish Water

Dawlish beach was busy with holidaymakers at the time of the incident. Bathers were advised by an official from Teignbridge District Council to stay out of the sea and wash their hands. The Environment Agency declared an 'abnormal situation' and the bathing water was closed for more than 24 hours.

Levels of E.coli bacteria in Dawlish Water increased significantly as a result of the discharge, from 990 per 100ml upstream of the sewer pipe to 4,800,000 at the point of discharge. Further downstream in the walled section by the viaduct the level had reduced to 70,000, however children had been seen playing in the water in this area. Dilution in the sea meant there were safe levels of E.coli in the town's bathing water.

South West Water said it had tried to get a team to Dawlish as soon as possible, but their response time was increased because a crew was unavailable having attended sewer flooding of a property elsewhere overnight. A second crew was unable to attend due to technical problems with their vehicle.

Nigel Thomas-Childs, for the Environment Agency, said:

Water companies must respond promptly to emergencies to minimise any pollution or harm to the environment. This discharge occurred over an August bank holiday when Dawlish was particularly busy. South West Water lost valuable time and took too long to find the blockage and deal with the overflow to the brook.

Appearing before Exeter Crown Court, South West Water Ltd was fined £80,000 and ordered to pay £6,202 costs after pleading guilty to discharging polluting material into Dawlish Brook, an offence under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.

Jeremy Corbyn speech to launch Labour's Local Election campaign

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, will today launch Labour's Local Election campaign and say:

Thank you for that introduction Bethany and for all that you do in mobilising our student members in Nottinghamshire.

Labour depends on all its members to deliver our message of investment and social justice in every community across Britain.

Over a quarter of a million more people joined Labour over the past eighteen months they saw Labour has broken with the failed politics of the past and that they could be part of a new project for real change: bold, confident and, yes, angry too.

Because who wouldn't be angry?

When they see people lying on trolleys in hospital corridors?

When they see more and more people homeless on the streets?

When they hear about a high street chain trying to pay young people in leftover food?

When huge numbers of Sure Start centres have closed under the Tories?

Or
when class sizes are rising – as the Tories divert funds to grammar schools
for
a privileged few?

And
when social care for the elderly and disabled is in crisis – while the
super-rich and big business get tax giveaways worth £73 billion?

How can you not be angry and demand major change when
life expectancy projections have fallen in Britain for pensioners? We are a
rich country, the
sixth richest in the world. We are not at war, there is no epidemic sweeping
our land.

But,
whether the Conservative Party chair can face the facts or not, life
expectancy
has actually fallen – by a year for 65-year-old women and 6 months for
65-year-old men – since 2013.

The
truth is that the Tories are running our country down.

Home
ownership, opportunities for our children, wages and conditions at work, the
NHS, care for our elderly, and now, life expectancy: they're all going
backwards, run down by a Conservative government that looks after those at
the
top and manages decline for the rest of us.

Britain
is a wealthy country but you wouldn't know it from the way people are held
back
in their everyday lives – from making a home for themselves and their
families,
building a career, pursuing their interests and ambitions.

Local
councils have made a huge difference to people's lives – providing libraries
and leisure centres, schools, building houses, making sure the elderly have
the
support they need.

But
since 2010 councils have seen their funding cut by 40%.

Over
ninety percent of councils are putting up council tax this year to try to
compensate for the huge cuts in the grant they get from government.

Meanwhile
police budgets are cut, social care budgets are cut, schools budgets are cut,

Sure Start centres are closed, libraries are closed , houses aren't built.

Whole

communities are being held back and jobs, services and hope destroyed. But it doesn't have to be like this.

Labour

is standing up for you. In Westminster and in every community across the country.

Labour

councils are making a difference across the country. Stepping up where the Government fails to act.

Faced

with the growing housing crisis, Birmingham Council is delivering 30% of all new homes in the city. And Lancashire County Council has formed a joint venture to buy 800 affordable homes for sale and social rent.

Faced

with the crisis in social care 15 Labour councils have signed up to the Ethical Care Charter for minimum standards of safety, quality and dignity of care and improve pay and training for care workers. I signed it myself last week in Blyth.

Faced

with so many people struggling to make ends meet Liverpool council is setting up a not-for-profit energy company – “the Liverpool LECCy” – to sell gas and electricity at a lower cost, building on what's been done down the road in Nottingham with Robin Hood Energy. And just west of here in Derbyshire the Labour Council's Welfare Rights Service has helped local people claim £18 million in benefits they otherwise would have lost.

Faced

with the Government's failure to invest in our economy the 'Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund' has lent £3.5 million to help more than 30 businesses secure good jobs in Nottinghamshire. And in Northumberland, the council-owned Arch property business generates jobs and homes, as well as a return of nearly £5m a year that supports council services like schools, roads and social care. I was really pleased to visit their Blyth Workspace site last week which offer huge opportunities.

Faced

with an epidemic of low pay 89 Labour councils have delivered the real Living Wage for council employees and contractors to ensure better wages for local people. I'm particularly proud that my own borough led the way on that.

These

are just a few examples of how Labour councils are standing up for you and why you need Labour to be in power in towns, counties and city regions as well as Westminster.

The Conservatives justify tax cuts for the richest and big business by saying they will lead to an increase in investment. But in fact investment has fallen, leaving us with antiquated infrastructure and uncompetitive industries.

The future of our country cannot be left to the free market and the whims of the wealthy.

That is why Labour will set up a national investment bank and regional development banks – including our ‘Bank of the North’ – to help unlock £500 billion to fund major capital projects and finance growth.

Our plan will use public investment to build up new investment by the private sector. It means creating hundreds of thousands of good quality jobs in manufacturing and in green and other cutting-edge industries of the future.

As every successful business knows, there’s nothing reckless about borrowing to invest quite the opposite.

Investment in infrastructure, skills, broadband and high speed rail generates growth and tax revenues. It more than pays for itself. This is just what the Welsh Government is doing with the launch of the Welsh Development Bank, which draws on 20 years of Labour experience in power.

At this crucial time we need to look to the future and ask ourselves what sort of country we want Britain to be.

Theresa May’s Government is trying to use Brexit to turn Britain into a low-wage tax haven for big business.

We are offering a real alternative that reflects the priorities of the majority of our people to rebuild and transform Britain so that no one and no community is

left behind.

Instead

of a country run for the rich, we want to see one in which all of us can lead richer lives.

A

Labour Government will end the rip-off on the railways and bring them into public ownership.

Labour

will overturn the Government's ban on council-owned bus companies as part of a plan to put the public back into buses.

We'll

stop the corporate tax cuts and make sure the tax dodgers pay their fair share.

We'll

invest in our children's education and skills for our workers.

We'll

give six million people a pay rise by introducing a real living wage of at least £10 an hour.

We'll

reinstate nurses' bursaries and give more people the chance to train to be nurses, so that the sick get the care they need.

We'll

invest in housing, building the homes our country needs, creating thousands of good construction jobs and apprenticeships and allowing councils to borrow to build council housing.

Together

we can create a Britain where each of us can lead richer lives investing in a better Britain, creating educational opportunity for all, guaranteeing the health and social care services you need, providing safer neighbourhoods and building homes people can afford.

In

the coming weeks of this campaign Labour will be setting out more of our policies to show how Labour will stand up for you.

This

election is your chance to send a message to the Tories: that you won't accept our NHS in crisis, your children's future betrayed, a deepening housing crisis, damaging cuts to the police and insecure jobs that don't make ends meet.

It doesn't have to be like this. Things can and they will change.

So use your vote for Labour on 4th May.

Ends

[Press release: New charity investigation: Kids 'N' Cancer UK](#)

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has opened a statutory inquiry into [Kids 'N' Cancer UK, registered charity number 1138702](#), and frozen its bank accounts. The inquiry was opened on 15 March 2017.

The charity has objects to provide assistance and financial support to children seeking cancer treatment, and to assist with the overseas costs of Proton Beam Therapy which is not yet available in the UK.

The Commission has established that there are clear and on-going regulatory issues relating to the administration and financial controls of the charity following the arrests of a trustee and an employee of the charity.

The inquiry will examine the:

- charity's governance, particularly since only one trustee remains active
- trustee's management of the charity's financial affairs including its financial controls, fundraising activities associated with specific beneficiaries, the application of funds, and the risk to charity property
- extent to which trustees have properly authorised benefits and remuneration to a trustee and employee at the charity

In order to protect the assets of the charity, the Commission has taken steps to freeze the charity's bank accounts under section 76(3)(d) of the Charities Act 2011.

It remains in contact with the Derbyshire Police and will cooperate with the police investigation as necessary.

The Commission had historic engagement with the charity. In 2014, it identified weaknesses in the charity's administration and issued an action plan to address concerns in areas such as accounting, financial controls and governance.

It was satisfied at the time that the trustees took appropriate action to

comply with its plan, but further concerns about the charity's management and financial controls have now arisen.

The Commission stresses that opening an inquiry is not in itself a finding of wrong doing. The purpose of an inquiry is to examine issues in detail and investigate and establish the facts so that the regulator can ascertain whether there has been misconduct and mismanagement; establish the extent of the risk to the charity's property, beneficiaries or work; decide what action needs to be taken to resolve the serious concerns, if necessary using its investigative, protective and remedial powers to do so.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. [Reports of previous inquiries](#) by the Commission are available on GOV.UK.

The charity's details can be viewed on the Commission's [online charity search tool](#).

Ends

PR 27/17

Notes to editors

1. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
 2. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
 3. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the Commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.
 4. The Commission's decision to announce the opening of a statutory inquiry is based on whether it is in the public interest to do so and with consideration of our objective to increase public trust and confidence in charities.
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[News story: Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia and Jordan: April 2017](#)

Prime Minister Theresa May visits Jordan and Saudi Arabia from 3 to 5 April to further strengthen the UK's relationships in the Middle East.

Jordan

On her first visit to Jordan as Prime Minister, Theresa May will visit Amman today, 3 April. The Prime Minister will announce a new UK-Jordan initiative to tackle the terror threat and develop new capabilities to strike at the heart of Daesh, with new support for the Jordanian Air Force. She will confirm a plan to improve co-operation on countering violent extremism in the region.

The Prime Minister will also discuss how the UK can build on our co-operation with Jordan to manage the fallout from the Syrian conflict.

Saudi Arabia

The Prime Minister will visit Saudi Arabia Tuesday 4 April and Wednesday 5 April. She will make clear that they are a close and important ally and that we will continue to work closely in a range of areas, particularly on counter-terrorism where UK-Saudi co-operation is vital.

The Prime Minister is also expected to explore ways of boosting our already very strong trade ties. Saudi Arabia is currently the UK's largest trading partner in the Middle East, with exports of British goods standing at £4.67 billion and services at £1.9 billion in 2015.

Announcements

[News story: Small, local charities set to benefit from fundraising skills training](#)

The Foundation for Social Improvement ([the FSI](#)) has been awarded a grant worth £199,580 to run a two year training programme, helping small, local charities and community groups develop their fundraising skills.

The programme run by the FSI in partnership with [LocalGiving](#), the [Small Charities Coalition](#) and [Charity Finance Group](#), will provide over 5,000 fundraising training opportunities. It will include face-to-face events across the country, webinars and online learning resources, one-to-one advice and consultancy appointments, fundraising campaign planning support, and intensive mentoring matches. Training will be subsidised, helping organisations to take part who may not normally have the resources to attend.

The training will be for small, local charities and community groups with an annual income of up to £1 million, which have a local focus within England.

Minister for Civil Society, Rob Wilson said:

Small, local charities and community groups provide essential support for local people and are the backbone of our communities helping to build a fairer society that benefits everyone, not just the privileged few.

I want to help them be more resilient and sustainable, and this training programme will give them valuable skills so they can continue their vital work helping to support people up and down the country.

Details of the training events will be added to the FSI's website as they become available, with online resources for those who might not be able to attend the training. You can also follow the [FSI on Twitter](#) for latest news and information about the training.