



Cllr Steve Grimmer
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Mark Thurston
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Date: Friday 31st July 2026

By email only: CustService@anglianwater.co.uk

Dear Mr. Thurston,

RE: Sewage discharges in the Great Yarmouth borough

We are writing together as Norfolk County Councillors, representing three divisions within Great Yarmouth borough, to raise our serious concern about the continuing discharges of sewage into local rivers and into the sea off our coast.

People locally are still asking a straightforward question: why is untreated, or only partly treated, sewage entering the River Yare, the River Bure and the sea off our coast, especially at a time when residents costs keep going up?

Our rivers, coastline and wider waterways are among the area's most important assets. They sustain local businesses, bring visitors to the borough, and make a real difference to the day-to-day quality of life for residents. Keeping them protected needs to be treated as a priority.

We are aware of the Clean Water Bill and its aim to tighten requirements on water companies, such as Anglian Water drive more investment into aging sewer infrastructure, reduce sewage spills, improve transparency, and strengthen penalties. We support those aims. Even so, legislation on its own will not put things right in our rivers and off our coastline. What people want to see is practical change and measurable improvement within an agreed specific timescale.

With that in mind, we would like clear answers to the following:

1. How many storm overflows/CSOs are currently operational within the Great Yarmouth borough, based on the latest verified data?
2. Could you please provide the precise location (address, OS grid reference, or coordinates) of each operational storm overflow/CSO within the borough?
3. How many of these overflows are monitored, and what is the type and frequency of monitoring (e.g. continuous real-time)?
4. How long after an overflow has occurred does Anglian Water take to notify the relevant authorities? This to include both monitored and unmonitored overflows/CSO within the borough of Great Yarmouth?
5. How many overflows, both monitored and unmonitored, have occurred within the last twelve months compared to previous three years?

We would be grateful your responses to each question above.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Steve Grimmer
Yarmouth North and Central

Cllr Glenn Hurren
North Caister & Ormesby

Cllr Daniel McGrath
Caister South and Bure