

Selaine Saxby MP  
The Strand  
Barnstaple  
EX31 1EU

Our Ref: 19087

Date: 22 September 2023

Via email: [selaine.saxby.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:selaine.saxby.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Selaine Saxby MP,

Thank you for your email to Bruce Newport on 17 September 2023, regarding our pollution risk forecasting service.

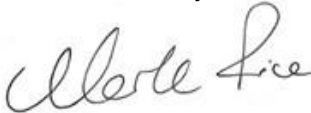
On 9 September, we sent you a list of responsibilities for bathing water management and how Pollution Risk Forecasting (PRF) feeds into this. We understand that with multiple systems providing different information there is the potential for the public to become confused. It is not currently possible to produce one system because the drivers for collecting and disseminating data are so different and no one supplier has access to all the information. We do recognise the problems this causes, and we will continue to work to try and address this.

With regards to your specific queries concerning the life saving club event at Saunton Sands on 17 September:

- PRF's had been automatically issued for Croyde on both Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 of September. Our model predicted the potential for lower water quality on those days due to rainfall and wind direction. South West Water's (SWW) Waterfit Live did not show any sewage spills from their systems. These two systems run independently from each other.
- We do not forecast water quality for Saunton Sands so no PRF will ever be issued. This beach catchment does not have any SWW overflows and so would not have any warnings on the Waterfit system.

We go beyond our responsibility in publishing information so people can make informed choices where to swim. The UK Health Security Agency provides [Swim Healthy' guidance](#) to help people make decisions on swimming.

Yours sincerely,



**Mark Rice**  
**Area Director – Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**

 [DCISEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:DCISEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
 Environment Agency, Manley House, Kestrel Way, Exeter EX2 7LQ