

Please reply to: Cllr J Carter

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Our ref: IG
20 February 2012

Dear Mr Harvey

**SALCOMBE SOUTH SANDS BATHING WATER, BEACHLIVE AND ESTUARINE
WATER QUALITY**

Thank you for your letter of 14 November which, as I think you know, I tabled for discussion at the last meeting of the Salcombe Harbour Board.

The Board very much welcomed the way in which you addressed our concerns about the discharges from the Malborough Village and South Sands pumping stations, and your assurance that nearly all the discharges which were reported through BeachLive turned out to be false alarms as the result of electronic noise.

The Board appreciates that the only standards which apply are to bathing water and that there are none for streams. We also recognise that, as you say, storm overflows are not the only pollution risk to streams. But it is just because South Hams District Council has worked with the local farmers to tackle the risk of bacteriological contamination from agricultural sources in South Sands, that we are so anxious to minimise any other source of pollution.

It is good news that DEFRA has confirmed that the South Sands bathing water quality again met the UK guidelines in 2011. That should enable us to renew the Blue Flag there, which is so important to the harbour. It is good to know that you share our concerns about this and that you appreciate how publicly sensitive this issue is for us.

Like you, I hope that this correspondence will have settled the matters between us, but I will certainly take up your kind invitation to write further if we again have cause for concern about the discharges from Malborough or South Sands.

Yours sincerely

Cllr John Carter
Chairman, Salcombe Harbour Board