

Agenda 18f)

COUNCIL
18/06/26

From: Dwr Glan <dowrglan@gmail.com>
Sent: 06 June 2026 22:58
To: admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: South West Water failures in Torpoint

We wondered if Torpoint councillors would like to support the Dwr Glan campaign, a cross-party and councillor-lead campaign to sort out the sewage crisis in Cornwall? Since April, 30 town and parish councils have signed our letter to OfWat and more than 15 town and parish councils across Cornwall have put it to the vote in the next few weeks.

What is Dwr Glan?

Dwr Glan is a cross-party campaign set up by Cornish local councillors who think that South West Water has failed for 36 years to demonstrate that they could manage competently the Cornish sewage network. We know that local councillors have a good understanding of the situation as they see how SWW is failing their parishes and towns.

In fact, despite repeated promises over three decades, the situation is getting worse. SWW is now the worst offender in the UK for spills and the Fal area was branded "worst polluted area in the UK" for spills in 2021-22. 2025 and 2026 have seen sewage pouring on Cornish streets in Sithney, Porthtowan and Stithians and some outlet discharging for more than 20 days on end in Penryn and Praze rivers. With the most expensive water bills in the UK, record dividend and profit being published by SWW in recent years, this clearly signals that their focus remains on diverting money towards shareholders rather than fixing their broken infrastructure.

After three decades of failures, it is time to move beyond consultations, fines and action plans. Our councillors and councils think that SWW themselves are an issue, and that the company needs to be replaced by a public-owned body that could be answerable to local elected representatives.

What do we propose?

The end goal of the campaign is to deliver a letter of No Confidence to SWW from as many of the 213 parish and town councils as possible by this summer. This strong message sent by Cornish communities will support our local MPs to ask OfWat to revoke SWW's licence to operate through the Special Administration mechanism of the Water Bill currently debated in parliament.

If you'd like to support this initiative, you'll find the motion attached.

A few useful links for more information:

- [DwrGlan.org - the campaign website](http://DwrGlan.org)
- <https://cornishstuff.com/south-west-water/campaign-launched-calling-for-removal-of-south-west-water-in-cornwall/>
- <https://cobblestonemedia.co.uk/2026/04/16/councils-declare-no-confidence-in-south-west-water-anti-privatisation-wave-hits-cornwall/>
- <https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/south-west-water-banned-cornwall-10915095.amp>
- <https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/26037118.helston-council-vote-no-confidence-south-west-water/>

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this further.
Lowena dhis, Kind regards,

Cllr Mael Garrec
[Dwr Glan](#) campaign coordinator
07752 963518



Motion to be signed by parish and town councils

1. "This Council notes with grave concern the systemic failure of South West Water to manage the sewage system in Cornwall. Despite record bills and government intervention, raw sewage continues to impact our environment and public health. Therefore, this Council resolves:
2. To formally declare a Vote of No Confidence in South West Water.
3. To sign the collective letter to the Secretary of State demanding the removal of South West Water's management through a Special Administration Order.

Formal Letter of No Confidence

TO: Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

CC: The Chief Executive of Ofwat; The Leader of Cornwall Council; Cornwall's Members of Parliament.

DATE: [Insert Date]

SUBJECT: Formal Vote of No Confidence in South West Water (SWW) and Petition for Special Administration.

To the Secretary of State,

We, the undersigned Town and Parish Councils of Cornwall, representing the residents, businesses, and ecosystems of the Duchy, hereby formally issue this **Vote of No Confidence** in the management of South West Water (SWW).

We are no longer requesting "improvements" or "consultations." South West Water has failed for more than a decade to show its capability and willingness to manage our water and sewage system. We are formally petitioning the Government and Ofwat to remove SWW from the management of the Cornish sewage and water systems, and transfer the ownership and management of our sewage and water system to a publicly-owned organisation, run as a public service.

Our decision is based on a systemic and catastrophic failure in the following three areas:

1. Failure of Infrastructure and Public Health

Despite Cornwall's residents paying the highest water bills in the UK, our coastline and rivers have become conduits for raw sewage. In 2025 and early 2026, we have witnessed

unprecedented spill durations that have closed our beaches, impacted our tourism economy, and posed a direct threat to public health. The current management has proven incapable of maintaining a sewage system fit for the 21st century.

2. Financial Mismanagement and Breach of Public Trust

While our constituents face further bill increases this April, SWW continues to prioritise shareholder dividends and executive bonuses over essential capital investment. The "investment plans" touted by the company have repeatedly failed to yield results on the ground, leading to a total breakdown of trust between the utility provider and the Cornish people.

3. Inadequacy of Governance

It is the view of these Councils that SWW's leadership has lost the confidence of the Cornish communities and its "social license" to operate. The repeated fines and enforcement cases from Ofwat have acted as a "cost of doing business" rather than a deterrent. We believe the company is now structurally incapable of delivering the environmental protections required by law.

Our Formal Demand:

We call upon the Government to intervene and make this situation stop at once, using powers such as those granted by the **Water (Special Measures) Act** to remove the offending company from operating in Cornwall. We demand that South West Water be placed into **Special Administration**, stripping the current management of their mandate. We call upon the Government to transition Cornish sewage and water assets into a publicly-owned organisation, run as a public service, answerable to elected representatives of Cornish voters, that will prioritise the Cornish environment and its people over private profit.

Cornish rivers and seas are the lifeblood of our economy and our identity. We will no longer stand by while they are managed into decline.

We await your urgent response regarding the steps you will take to revoke SWW's licence in the Duchy.

Yours faithfully,

[Name of Council]

On behalf of the Collective Councils of Cornwall