

BERNARD JENKIN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

9<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Rt Hon Hilary Benn  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

Our ref: eb/1107

*Dear Hilary*

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Colne Estuary Partnership (representing various interests associated with the Colne Estuary) addressed to the Environment Agency, concerning the deterioration of water quality in the estuary.

I am extremely concerned in particular that the Colchester Sewerage Treatment Works are increasingly inadequate to deal with the quantity of effluent from the every increasing number of homes in Colchester. This threatens both the environment and Colchester's historic oyster industry, upon which local jobs and tourism depends. The letter inquires what action the Environment Agency is able to take to deal with this.

I would be most grateful if you would look into this matter and the questions raised by the Colne Estuary Partnership. Can you advise what action will be taken to deal with this increasing problem? Is this something that Ofwat can address with Anglian Water in the next regulatory review?

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

*Yours ever*  
*Bernard Jenkin*

Encl.

cc. Paul Woodcock, Regional Director (Eastern Region) Environment Agency  
Prof Graham Underwood, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Essex