



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr David Hinton
Chief Executive
South East Water Ltd
Rocfort Road
Snodland
ME6 5AH
Sent via email

2nd February 2026

Dear David,

I am writing to follow up on my email of Monday 26 January in which I asked when the hosepipe ban would be lifted for constituents in Mid Sussex. At the time of writing, I am yet to receive a response from your office.

I did however read with interest an email from South East Water to customers sent on Wednesday 28 January, which stated that, “*...it takes longer for groundwater to recover during the winter compared to our surface reservoirs.*”

However, the Environment Agency’s assessment of ground water levels in Sussex on Friday [30 January](#) stated that: “*Since 15 January 2026 groundwater has been rising steadily. Groundwater is now higher than average. In all Sussex groundwater communities groundwater is high.*”

Please can you explain why the public should believe South East Water’s assessment of groundwater levels when they are at odds with the Environment Agency’s view?

Finally, I would appreciate confirmation as to when you intend to lift the hosepipe ban at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Bennett

Alison Bennett MP
Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex

cc: Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP