

**ROBERT GOODWILL M.P.**



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Ref: RG/SFB

03 May 2016

Mr. B. Roberts,  
8 Tuthill,  
Scarborough,  
YO11 1PS

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Thank you very much indeed for your e-mail of 12<sup>th</sup> April regarding the long sea outfall in Scarborough. Over the years I have had regular meetings with Yorkshire Water who are charged with the maintenance of this discharge pipe and indeed I have also had regular updates from McCain themselves who obviously produce the material which is discharged. The whole discharge process is of course managed by the Environment Agency who ensure that no toxic chemicals or elements which may be a danger to wildlife or the marine environment are included.

The majority of this material is water, of course, with a degree of starch which may come from the potatoes themselves. I understand that there may be other chemicals included but none of them would be anything but completely benign. The objective of a long sea outfall is to ensure that none of this material finds its way onto the beach.

I know fishermen have told me in the past that when we used to discharge sewage into the sea there was always good fishing around that area as the 'manure' helped the eco system produce copious amounts of food for fish. Personally I do not subscribe to that view and indeed given that that contains bacteria which could be harmful to human health, particularly those who surf, I certainly would not wish to see that practice resume.

I know around the end of the outfall itself there is an area which is relatively inert because of the material but that is quite a small area and indeed, given the size of the North Sea, the material is fairly rapidly dispersed and does not pose any risk.

Cont ...

**Member of Parliament for Scarborough and Whitby**

*Please reply to the address indicated beneath.*

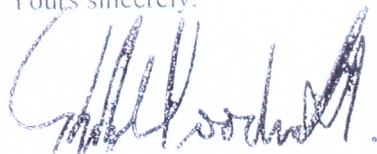
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I do of course continue to meet with Yorkshire Water and if any problems were apparent they would act, along with the Environment Agency, to sort this problem out.

In the long term, of course, the solution to this is some form of on land treatment works and indeed there are other potato processors in the country who are producing biogas from the waste starch which can then be used to generate electricity or indeed used as part of the factory process. I know McCain have been looking at future investment plans and I have suggested to them that this should be part of it.

Thank you again for your letter. Certainly if there were any real concerns with regards to discharges, either finding their way onto the beach or effecting the eco system, I would wish to take those up with the necessary authorities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Goodwill', written in a cursive style.

Robert Goodwill MP  
Scarborough & Whitby