

From: [Hampshire Water Project](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Hampshire Water Project](#)
Subject: RE: Hampshire Water Project
Date: 12 June 2026 16:30:06
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon Mr Holmes

Thank you for your email.

The application above was submitted on 28 May 2026 and the acceptance decision must be taken on or before 25 June 2026. The decision will be published on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

If the application is accepted, the following documents will also be published on the project webpage:

- The application documents (if they are not already published).
- Any Adequacy of Consultation Representations submitted by relevant local authorities.
- The Planning Inspectorate's acceptance checklist.

The acceptance tests

Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an application can be accepted provided:

- it is an application for an order granting development consent;
- that development consent is required for any of the development to which the application relates;
- the Applicant has, in relation to a proposed application that has become the application, complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure); and
- that the application (including accompaniments) is of a standard that the Secretary of State considers satisfactory.

The following must be considered when making the decision:

- a) The Consultation Report received with the application
- b) Any Adequacy of Consultation Representations received by the Planning Inspectorate from a local authority consultee.
- c) The extent to which the Applicant has had regard to government guidance.

If you have sent comments about the **Pre-application consultation**, these can be considered in addition to the statutorily required acceptance tests when making the decision about whether or not to accept the application. However, it will be for the decision maker (the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State) to decide the weight to give to the views expressed based on the individual facts of the case.

If you have sent comments about the **merits of the Proposed Development** (e.g. setting out support for, or objection to, the principle of the Proposed Development) these cannot be considered at the acceptance stage. Should the application be accepted for Examination you will be able to submit your comments as a 'Relevant Representation' and register as an Interested Party. Your comments must be submitted on the 'Registration and Relevant Representation form' which will be made available on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website at the appropriate time.

Further information about registering as an Interested Party can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [How to register to have your say and make a relevant representation](#).

You may find it helpful to subscribe to [Get updates](#) by email on the progress of the above application.

Kind Regards



Ramiel Burnie [REDACTED]
Case Officer
Planning Inspectorate
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From: HOLMES, Paul [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.uk>
Sent: 12 June 2026 10:52
To: Hampshire Water Project <HampshireWaterProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Hampshire Water Project

Dear Mr Sheard,

I write in my capacity as the Member of Parliament for Hamble Valley to confirm that I have reviewed Rowlands Castle Parish Council's Adequacy of Consultation Representation dated 9 June 2026, together with its accompanying Inadequacy of Consultation Report, and Save Our South Coast Alliance's Adequacy of Consultation Representation dated 9 June 2026.

Having considered these submissions, I write in support of the concerns raised in both representations on behalf of my constituents.

The submissions, including the Inadequacy of Consultation Report prepared by Rowlands Castle Parish Council, identify multiple material failures by Southern Water to comply with its statutory consultation obligations under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. These duties must be assessed in accordance with the Gunning Principles, the applicability of which is clearly explained in the Save Our South Coast Alliance submission.

My constituents and I are concerned with the absence of consultation at a formative stage of the decision-making process, given that the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project was selected by Southern Water in December 2021 before any public consultation had taken place on that option.

In addition, insufficient information was provided to enable affected individuals and communities to give informed consideration and responses to the proposals. In particular, communities were not clearly informed that water supplied via Havant Thicket Reservoir would contain recycled treated effluent.

I am also concerned that consultation responses were not conscientiously considered, including the exclusion of a substantial proportion of responses submitted during the 2024 consultation from the published analysis.

Under the Planning Act 2008, the Planning Inspectorate may accept an application for development consent only where the applicant has complied with the statutory pre-application consultation requirements. If Southern Water has failed to comply with the requirements of sections 42, 47 or 48, the statutory consequence is clear: the application cannot lawfully be accepted for examination.

Having reviewed the evidence presented by Rowlands Castle Parish Council and Save Our South Coast Alliance, I consider that serious and substantial concerns have been raised regarding compliance with both the consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and the Gunning Principles.

I therefore respectfully urge the Planning Inspectorate to give careful consideration to the matters set out in those submissions and, should it conclude that the statutory consultation requirements have not been met, to reject Southern Water's application for examination.

Yours sincerely,

Paul

Paul Holmes MP
Member of Parliament for Hamble Valley
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA



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PAUL HOLMES
Working Hard for Hamble Valley

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