



## HILLINGDON GREEN PARTY

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From Hillingdon Green Party

To Sir James Bevan, the Environment Agency

Dear Sir,

We are alarmed and dismayed that the Colne Valley Viaduct (CVV) is being built through the Drinking Water Safeguarded Areas across the Mid Colne Valley in Hillingdon, London.

The CVV works are not compliant with UK legal protection of drinking water sources, Water Framework Directive (WFD). There must be certainty of No Deterioration of quality elements at time of planning consent. There is uncertainty of quantity and quality of water resources post HS2 construction and at time of reopening of boreholes (especially Blackford). No account has been taken of clearance of over 1,000 acres of functional wetland nature reserves in the Safeguarded Areas. Insufficient notice is being taken of the Special Site of Contamination at Newyears Green (Landfill site) which is already polluting the aquifer and responsible for closing Ickenham public water source. No account has been taken of impacts on the potential for the Ickenham source to achieve good chemical status by 2027. The southern embankment of the viaduct is located in the contaminated Ickenham safeguarded zone, inner source protection zone SPZ(1). Pile driving up to 80m within the fragile chalk aquifer below the water table, is to take place. The route goes from the polluted source across the valley, through 3 active water sources currently supplying good quality drinking water. 57 million litres per day ML/d are at risk, with planned short term closures of supply from Blackford and Northmoor pumping stations.

This is a Freedom of Environmental Information request: can you confirm that a Schedule 33 application for the Colne Valley Viaduct (CVV) has been presented by HS2 Ltd to the Environment Agency and at what date?

The possibility for Hillingdon Council to consider and set conditions for CVV was removed by the Planning Inspectorate in November 2020 when HS2 Ltd claimed that protective provisions for Drinking water and flooding were to be covered under Schedule 33 application for the CVV to the Environment Agency.

With the release of HS2 water risk assessments on 21 May 21, it is now public knowledge that water supplies for thousands of Affinity Water Ltd customers in Hillingdon and surrounding regions will be detrimentally impacted. Customers will receive water of less quality and more treated water, during CVV construction and there is uncertainty about long term quality and quantity of supplies.

There is a threat of HS2 increasing the falling trend in groundwater quality due to mobilisation of historical contamination. This is considered a long term effect as groundwater may not recover in a short period of time and is not compliant with WFD.

Can you now rescind the Schedule 33 application? If there is no Schedule 33 CVV application or consent, then request an immediate public enquiry into HS2 detrimental impacts on the Drinking Water safeguarded areas of the Mid Chilterns Chalk aquifer? Please find attached; Judge HH Shanks Decision Notice, zip file of internal Water Risk Assessments released UNDER COURT ORDER, inadequate evidence of WFD compliance for CVV.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Green

Joint coordinator Hillingdon Green Party