

4 April 2023

To Boris Johnson MP

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter dated 6 March 2023 it is appreciated that you forwarded the response from Carl Bird (HS2) to my concerns about HS2 effects on water quality in the Colne Valley. My understanding is that the concrete works for the piles / viaduct foundations are not complete.



Fig 1. No stanchions across HOAC Lake

31 March 2023, concrete lorries operating



Fig 2. Stanchion for Colne Valley Viaduct next to Moorhall Road **31 March 2023**

Photographs taken 31 March 2023 show that there are no concrete support stanchions visible across the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre Lake which indicates that the concrete foundations for the viaduct are not in place at this location which forms part of the inner source protection zone for the Blackford public water source.

1. Where is the data which Carl Bird is relying on when he states ‘we have recently completed our concrete piling works in the Colne Valley...’?

My understanding is that there are impacts on water supplies and quality from HS2 works in the Colne Valley. Affinity Water Ltd has confirmed that the Blackford public water source has been closed since May 2021 with no water being abstracted since that time and that replacement water is being bought and piped in from a different supplier. In Hillingdon we now receive a mix of aquifer water with treated surface water which is a different quality to that we received before HS2 works. Water is only being drawn from the Northmoor and West Hyde sources in the Colne Valley, courtesy of new purification works which have been built to mitigate HS2 effects. We do not know whether there has been increased spread of leachate from New Years Green Landfill site nor increased spread of chromium-6 from ongoing concrete works.

2. What data is Carl Bird relying on to say there are no impacts on drinking water supplies and quality?

We see the extensive environmental damage to the Colne Valley and cannot be reassured by unsubstantiated statements. Extensive groundwater quality monitoring and water quality monitoring at the Affinity Water pumping stations are taking place, according to Carl Bird, therefore

this data could be routinely released so that all your constituents (and customers further afield) can see whether our tap water is safe to drink.

3. Wouldn't it be better for regular i.e. monthly, water quality data to be put in the public domain?

It is not normal practice for tunnelling fluids to erupt through the ground from tunnelling as has happened three times now at the Ruislip rugby fields, as it is not normal practice for cement/concrete works to produce waste water with levels with chromium-6 above Environmental Quality Standards. As chromium-6 is a cancer causing agent it is of great alarm to the water drinking public that this has not been investigated and prevented. Therefore it is with regret that Carl Bird did not answer the central question:

4. 'If HS2 contractors are using cement with the correct levels of chromium, then why are so many sites being found producing water with high levels of chromium-6 which is unsafe to return to the environment and which needs treatment at HS2 Water Treatment Plants?' Perhaps this question could be put again to HS2 and an answer provided?

Thank you for following this issue closely. You will be pleased to know that I was invited to speak at a Side Event – Global Women and the Facets of Water at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference (23 March 2023). My information was well received.

I look forward to your response to these concerns of public importance.

Many Thanks

Sarah Green

This letter and your answer will be published on Hillingdon Green Party website.