

Open Letter to MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip

**Dear Mr Tuckwell,**

It is illegal under Water Environment Regulations UK (2017) for a public drinking water source to be deteriorated yet this is the fear for the water sources for Uxbridge where HS2 and DfT are building the Colne Valley Viaduct. As a precautionary measure the Blackford Public Water Source (PWS) on Moorhall Road, South Harefield was closed in May 2021 for fear of high turbidity. There was no derogation put in place as HS2 claims that any deterioration in chemical quality will be temporary, less than three years and that volume and quality of raw water will not be affected for a longer period of time. This means the Blackford PWS needs to be fit to reopen by May 2024.

**Monthly reports for May 2022 to April 2023** show that pollutants are being found at HS2 sites in Hillingdon's Drinking Water Protected Areas. Chromium 6 (cancer causing pollutant) has been found across numerous HS2 sites and is attributed to cement works. HS2 have always claimed this can be contained and treated at their Water Treatment Plant at the Chiltern Tunnel south portal site. So it is therefore worrying that Cr(VI) is now being found in the chalk rock at borehole ML026-CR032 to the west of Harvil Road.

The reports show Ammoniacal Nitrogen at high levels leaching from the New Years Green landfill site. This will be of concern to the Council as this contamination could migrate to the Blackford PWS and/or affect wildlife in surface waters. Please can this be looked into with the following questions in mind?

- What is going to be done to stop the leaking from the landfill site?
- Who is going to pay if additional purification is needed at the Blackford PWS?
- Who will be prosecuted if the Blackford PWS cannot reopen or if additional purification is needed to treat the HS2 or landfill contamination, at one or more PWS affected in the longer term?

Our tap water quality is extremely important for good health and well-being of residents of Uxbridge and South Ruislip.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Green