



From Lord Berkeley
berkeleyafg@parliament.uk; 07710431542

Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
SW1A 2AB

Your ref PEER629196

16 July 2015

Dean Matthew

Thames Tideway Tunnel

Thank you for your letter of 29th June 2015.

I am afraid that I cannot find any recent assessment of the Thames Tideway Project in the MPA's annual report of 2014/5 beyond it being listed, or any reference to recent scrutiny and challenge. I did receive a letter from your colleague Rory Stewart MP and I attach this and my response.

I am aware of earlier conclusions about the TTT and your statement about 'increasing pollution in the River Thames'. This is no longer the case, as the attached papers demonstrate, and it is for this reason, because of new evidence being available, that I argue that there should be a new and independent review to take this into account.

You mention the issues of dissolved oxygen and spill frequencies, but I support Prof Binnie's statement (in the summary of his response attached to my letter) that the Environment Agency has stated that, since the STWs upgrades, the Tideway has had no breach of any of the dissolved oxygen thresholds. I cannot accept the argument that a one year measure when referring to one spill source is acceptable but that one must wait 10 years to assess another but similar situation.

I am waiting for a meeting date with Rory Stewart but I remain strongly of the view that the Government should review this project and challenge the ECJ and EC for the fine to be set aside on the basis that a range of alternative measures would achieve their desired objective, and sooner than a completed and expensive Thames Tideway Tunnel.

I would very much welcome a meeting with you to discuss these issues further in the wider context of Government policy.

Tony
Tony Berkeley *Tony*