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Ben Macpherson MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Our ref: 202000036559
8th June 2020

Dear Ben

Thank you for your letter of 11 May 2020 on behalf of your constituents regarding odour from Seafield Wastewater Treatment Works.

I recognise this is a long term issue and one I take very seriously. I wrote to Scottish Water for information on the recent odour issues and relevant mitigation actions. Scottish Water recognises the increase in odour complaints. It has therefore worked with Veolia to understand the root causes for the increase in odour and has implemented additional operational changes which will help reduce the odour risk associated with the wastewater system, focussing on the primary settlement tanks and storm tanks. Also, on 16 April Scottish Water implemented additional chemical treatment at two locations in the wastewater network - this will help to reduce the odour potential of wastewater arriving at Seafield. I have emphasised again the importance of good operational practice and the taking of proactive measures where possible, in particular during spells of hot weather.

Ministers do keep the regulations and Code of Practice under review but, as matters stand, I do not consider that changes to the current regulatory framework are required. However, thank you for continuing to relay feedback from your constituents. The issue with Seafield is an aging works and, unfortunately, no change to regulation will alter that. The Scottish Government will continue to work with Scottish Water and the site operator to ensure that the planned capital investment works are brought forward to the earliest practicable point and clear and open engagement on the longer term replacement strategy is taken forward with the community and wider stakeholders.

Yours

Roseanna Cunningham

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