

Dear Ms Beale,

Thank you for letting me know.

Please treat the following as the requested resubmission of my supplementary representation, now including my full postal address:

UTT/26/1635/OP - Urgent supplementary representation: Great Dunmow sewage discharge during drought

East Anglia was officially declared to be in drought on 29 July 2026 following exceptionally low rainfall and depleted river flows. A discharge of untreated storm sewage from the Great Dunmow system into the River Chelmer was reported on or around 30 July 2026.

This requires urgent investigation. Storm overflows are presented as emergency relief during exceptional rainfall. Their reported operation during drought conditions raises obvious questions about existing network and treatment capacity, infiltration, blockage, equipment failure and the operation of the system.

The Environment Agency's official 2025 annual return already records 16 counted spills from the two Great Dunmow outlets AWS00494 and AWS00495, lasting a combined 85 hours and 41 minutes. Anglian Water has separately confirmed that Great Dunmow Water Recycling Centre currently lacks capacity to accommodate additional flows generated by new development.

I have submitted Environmental Information Regulations requests to Anglian Water and the Environment Agency seeking the outlet-specific start and finish records, rainfall, flow and storm-storage data, recorded cause, discharge volume, permit-compliance assessment and any investigation or remedial action relating to the reported July 2026 event. The Council should not determine this application without resolving the existing wastewater-capacity issue and obtaining a clear explanation of why untreated sewage was reportedly discharged during officially declared drought conditions. A further 850 homes must not be connected on the basis of an unfinished future improvement scheme.

Any necessary network and treatment improvements must be completed, commissioned and independently verified as providing sufficient capacity before occupation. This must be secured through an enforceable occupation restriction rather than reliance upon a future condition or undertaking.

Please register this supplementary representation, place it on the public planning file and bring it to the attention of the case officer and relevant consultees.

Please confirm when this has been completed.

I reserve the right to provide the requested operational records as a further supplementary representation when they are disclosed.