

Mark Roberts
Chief Executive
Environmental Standards Scotland
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

ENVIRONMENTAL
Standards Scotland
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Gillian Martin MSP
Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
Scottish Government
(By email)

2 July 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

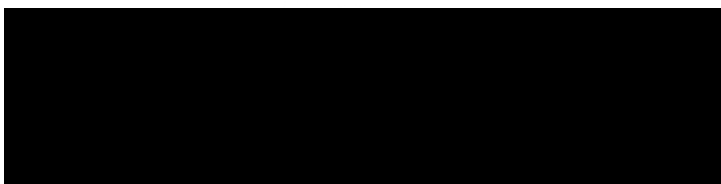
RE: ESS' Storm Overflows analytical report recommendations

Thank you for your letter of 10 June 2025, updating the Scottish Government's response to recommendations made by ESS in our report on [‘Storm Overflows – An assessment of spills, their impact on the water environment and the effectiveness of legislation and policy’](#).

I am pleased that you have agreed to update existing guidance on the definition of exceptional circumstances in which it is permissible for storm overflows to spill ahead of legislative reform in response to recommendation 3 in our report. ESS believes that it is important to provide clarity on this issue to Scottish Water and SEPA and to the wider public.

ESS welcomes the constructive dialogue that has taken place with your officials since the publication of our report. We will monitor implementation of the response to our recommendations and will continue to engage with your officials as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Roberts

Chief Executive

Environmental Standards Scotland

enquiries@environmentalstandards.scot

Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD
0808 1964000