

creating a better place



Councillor Richard Walsh  
Surrey County Council  
Council Offices  
West Entrance  
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TW1 1XA

**Our ref:** HD/TR

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 17 April 2014

Dear Cllr Walsh

### **Flooding in Spelthorne**

Thank you for your letter of 2 April 2014.

Please be assured that we are more than happy to cooperate with the Section 19 investigation, and to provide any information that is required.

We have had a number of enquiries and Freedom of Information requests from residents of Leacroft and Greenlands Road. We have answered these and are happy to respond to any other requests.

Please find enclosed a copy of the briefing that we produced for the Spelthorne area which will give you more detail of what has happened during and after the flooding event.

Flooding can occur from a number of different sources, river, groundwater, surface water and sewer flooding and it is often impossible to tell exactly which one is occurring at any one time in such a big event as we have just experienced.

The "sluice gate in the River Colne" you refer to in your letter I believe is the Ash offtake, which we own and maintain. This is an automated sluice that normally operates to allow a sweetening flow to the River Ash, stopping it from drying out completely and creating an environmental incident e.g. a fish kill. This sluice normally runs at about 4% open to allow this to happen.

I hope that the attached briefing note answers many of the questions that are being raised however, if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Area Manager, Julia Simpson on 01491 827585 or email at [Julia.simpson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.simpson@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Howard Davidson**  
**Director of Operations, South East**



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