



Zack Polanski AM

Chair of the Environment Committee

Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(sent by e-mail)

20 December 2024

Dear Steve,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the London Assembly Environment Committee in connection to Defra's current consultation on Reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013.¹ The Committee is currently looking into this issue, as part of its investigation into the Mayor of London's manifesto commitment to "launch an ambitious plan to make rivers in London swimmable within ten years."² In this context, we wanted to stress how important it is that the government considers how the questions in the bathing water regulations consultation may affect London.

The Committee held its first meeting exploring 'swimmable rivers' on 4 December 2024. As part of this meeting the Committee heard evidence from a range of experts that supports the broader definition of bathing to include other water users and to include year-round testing.

The Committee is still taking evidence as part of its investigation and is planning meetings in January and February to explore these issues further. The Committee will write to the government and share its findings once its investigation has finished early in 2025.

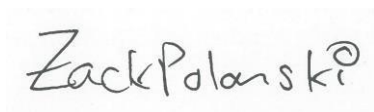
¹ Defra, [Consultation on Reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013](#)

² Sadiq Khan, [Making London Greener](#), Manifesto for May 2024 election

In the meantime, I am attaching the first transcript from this investigation.³

Best wishes,

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zack Polanski". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Zack Polanski AM
Chair of the Environment Committee

³ London Assembly Environment Committee, [Minutes for 4 December 2024 meeting](#)