



Teignmouth Town Council
Bitton House
Bitton Park Road
Teignmouth
TQ14 9DF

1st March 2018

Mr John Tuckett
Chief Executive Officer
Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

Dear Mr Tuckett

Devon Dredging and Disposal Licence

I refer to the MMO announcement saying:-

The MMO has suspended a marine licence for maintenance dredging of Exmouth Marina and disposal of related materials at the Sprey Point disposal site.

In your statement and appearance on local TV you said that the licence had been suspended until you are 'clear that materials found on Teignmouth beach are an *aesthetic* issue only'.

I understand that samples of the offending sludge have been given to both the MMO and the EA for testing.

We would have expected the material to be tested before the licence was granted. Was this not so?

Your statement is causing grave concern locally as it infers that dumping will resume if the issue is only one of 'aesthetics'. The bathing water quality rating for Teignmouth Town Beach is classified as 'Excellent' and it is designated as a 'Blue Flag Beach' which as I am sure you know covers, inter alia, water quality, environmental management together with safety and services.

The black sludge amounts to the pollution of our beaches (Shaldon is also affected). In Newcastle it may appear as just an aesthetic problem but no one is going to want to use a beach covered in a layer of black sludge nor will they want to swim in a sea with the sludge in suspension.

I do not know the history of the designation of the dumping area but surely such sites are intended to be benign and to not threaten a town's amenity and economy. The Town Centre Management Partnership considers this site to be wholly inappropriate for the dumping of materials such as that from Exmouth docks.

We therefore request that the licence be permanently rescinded.

Could you please:-

- confirm that this will be so
- and also confirm that materials are tested before licences are granted

Yours sincerely

Edward Cholton OBE

Chairman

Teignmouth Town Centre Management Partnership