



Joint statement from three of the sponsoring authorities of the Thames Tunnel Commission

The authorities note:

- The escalating costs of the Thames Tideway Tunnel and the fact that £1.3 billion is set to fix over 50% of the problem (reducing the average annual overflow by 21million cubic metres) yet this scheme costs more than three times that amount to deal with 18 million cubic metres. This represents very poor value for money for Thames Water customers.
- The evidence of Professor Chris Binnie, Chairman of the Thames Tunnel Strategic Study Group, makes the point that the whole basis for the project is out of date and that only a minuscule proportion (£12,000) of the £5 million invested in the Thames Tunnel strategy looked at sustainable drainage solutions (SuDs).
- Professor Green's evidence that Thames Water is set to make £162 million a year in additional revenue from the 20 mile super sewer due to a perverse incentive in the way the water industry is financed.

We, the undersigned, call on the Minister of State, Richard Benyon MP, to carry out the following:

1. An independent cost benefit analysis of the Thames Tunnel given the escalating costs relative to benefit.
2. A thorough review of the alternative proposals to the full tunnel scheme by water industry experts Professor Binnie and Professor Green.
3. A full investigation of Thames Water's apparent conflict of interest in promoting a scheme which would increase their regulatory capital value (RCV) by 40 per cent and failure to research adequately or promote any solutions that do not increase their RCV, such as green infrastructure.

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