

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to you as your constituent to express my disappointment at the government's recent decision not to ban plastic in wet wipes through their [single use plastic consultation](#) – and ask you to help.

While we welcome the news that single-use items such as plastic plates, trays, bowls and cutlery will be banned, the government has missed a highly important opportunity to ban plastic in sewage-based wet wipes to protect our rivers and natural environment.

Wet wipes made with plastic fibres are contaminating our rivers and building up in large numbers on the River Thames foreshore, and the plastic is forming 'wet wipe islands' which are devastating for wildlife and for people. Many fish in the river have plastic fibres clogging up their digestive systems. The situation is only getting worse. If we are serious about reducing irrecoverable plastic waste in the natural environment, we must ban plastic in wet wipes.

Around 64,000 wet wipes have been counted and removed from several small sections of the Thames foreshore by Thames21's volunteers over a period of five years. These statistics show the urgency and scale of the problem.

Recent sonar and laser scans of the Thames riverbed revealed a **"reef" of wet wipes that has grown to the size of two tennis courts** in Hammersmith, West London, changing the contours of the river and threatening its wildlife.

This is not just an issue for the River Thames, but a countrywide one with wet wipes ending up in waterways and washing up on beaches across the UK.

I am asking you as my representative **to publicly support a banning of plastic in wet wipes that would help people and wildlife. I also ask you to raise this matter with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.**

Please support a banning of plastic in wet wipes, and make your commitment to wildlife and people. Please also help to keep the River Thames healthy.