

The latest Water Framework Directive Classification Status data, published by the Environment Agency, shows the state of the country's rivers throughout 2019 based on ecological and chemical factors. Sadly, the percentage of rivers achieving good ecological status remains unchanged, at 14%. Chemical pollutants assessed for means that 0% of rivers met good chemical status.

Thames Rivers Trust Chairman, Dave Wardle said, *'We are extremely disappointed that there is no improvement. The data demonstrates a clear need for proper government funding, strategic planning and even stronger partnership working.'*

It is clear that the EA is carrying out less monitoring. For monitoring to be useful it has to be effective and co-ordinated. Citizen Science has a role to play here and Rivers Trusts are ideally placed to collect certain continuous and robust data, but adequate funding is essential.'

- We would like to see more partnership working between the EA and the third sector, to build up a comprehensive and accurate picture of our rivers.
- Water companies must focus on correct operation of their assets, to minimise pollution.
- We would welcome investment in Rivers Trusts for resources to:
 - Deliver more catchment sensitive farming projects.
 - Work with others to reduce and treat surface water runoff from roads and developments.
 - Identify misconnections to prevent pollution reaching our rivers.

All of these actions plus legislation to reduce the everyday use of harmful chemicals that enter our rivers would enable them to return to a more natural state. Given these latest figures now is the time for political will and a strong national leadership to stop polluting the environment and get every sector to play their role in a Green Recovery.

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