[Your Name]

[Your address]

[Date]

Mr David Black

Chief Executive

Ofwat

Dear Mr Black

**Re Consultation on PR24 Draft Determinations**

In response to the draft determinations:

**I do not agree** with the following proposals:

1. The proposed increase in bills to service new debt
2. The proposed continuation of 'investor returns' ie dividends, before Yorkshire Water stops polluting our rivers.
3. The proposed unambitious reduction in untreated sewage pollution incidents (44% by 2030) that means our rivers will continue to be polluted for years to come.
4. The proposal that Ofwat will claw back underspend, rather than pay on the completion of upgrades.
5. The proposal that water companies should improve infrastructure ( e.g. number of sewer collapses, burst pipes) rather than ensuring infrastructure does not fail in the first place.

I have paid my bill for Yorkshire Water to maintain our water system. This proposal sets out that water company did not do what was required, and that I must now pay again.

**Reasons for my position**

1 & 2. Ofwat is proposing to put bills up here in Yorkshire by £107 before inflation, so that Yorkshire Water can make improvements in our broken sewage infrastructure after years of paying dividends, executive bonuses and taking out eye watering loans. As customers we must not pay for the servicing of additional loan debt so that Yorkshire Water can treat our sewage, after years of underinvestment and profiteering. Yorkshire Water must reinvest money taken as profit to treat our sewage and maintain our sewage system. I have already paid; I should not have to pay again.

3. Ofwat is proposing, what it calls an ambitious target of 44% reduction in raw sewage discharges into our rivers by 2030. This is not ambitious. In Yorkshire this means our rivers will still be polluted by 280,000 hours of untreated sewage, in 43,546 pollution events. Ofwat must regulate to letter of the law, so that water companies only pollute in exceptional circumstances.

4. Ofwat is proposing to claw back any underspend. It is not clear how Ofwat will know what water companies are actually spending in order to claw back underspend. Our trust in water companies' transparency is broken. It has taken years of public campaigning to uncover the level of pollution. Water companies should not be paid for any innovation work until it is proven to have been delivered and the costs have been transparently scrutinised. I do not have confidence that Ofwat can and will follow through on this proposal.

5. Water companies have certified every year since privatisation that they have had sufficient resources to meet their legal obligations. On that basis Water companies including Yorkshire Water were able to take billions of pounds of dividend payments, and borrow eye watering sums from their investors attracting interest payments that already comprise 19% of our bills here in Yorkshire. This proposal uncovers the fact that water companies have not been maintaining their infrastructure. Yorkshire Water must, as a basic requirement, ensure its infrastructure does not fail.

**I agree** with your intent to deliver better water quality through  catchment and nature-based solutions, including hybrid solutions. However, I am concerned that this is not a position agreed with the Environment Agency who are currently blocking nature based solutions here in Ilkley. Ofwat and the Environment Agency need to be joined up to act as our regulators to protect our environment,

Yours sincerely

[Your Signature]

[Your Name]

Cc Steve Reed, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Robbie Moore MP (or your constituency MP if not in Ilkley)