

Petitioner submission of 27 February 2024

PE1988/H: Review the process for disposal of household raw sewage

The Committee will have spotted that the response from the Scottish Government provides a circular argument. It supports the SEPA 'How we regulate' approach, and restates the small-scale sewage service level statement, yet it is this SEPA statement that the Committee was asking for enlightenment on. Who is the master here?

The Scottish Government document entitled [The Purpose of SEPA](#)

states that "2.2 The Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced a general purpose for SEPA, as follows:

(1) SEPA is to carry out the functions conferred on it by or under this Act or any other enactment for the purpose of protecting and improving the environment (including managing natural resources in a sustainable way).

(2) In carrying out its functions for that purpose SEPA must, except to the extent that it would be inconsistent with subsection (1) to do so, contribute to-

(a) **improving the health and well being of people in Scotland**, and

(b) achieving sustainable economic growth."

The regulatory condition of contributing to **improving the health and well being of people in Scotland** seems to have got lost along the way in all of the responses to this petition from SEPA and the Scottish Government, and in the small-scale sewage service level statement; all responses and strategies have focused entirely on environmental issues to the exclusion of other linked duties.

Primary schools in Argyll & Bute are now sharing their experiences of playing on sewage filled beaches and in raw sewage seas in a campaign called a Jobby-Free Sea.

How can this revolting situation be allowed to continue?

The link to that campaign is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=122153279750022010&set=a.122096665730022010>

Please could the Committee remind the Scottish Government of their own Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014; that the purpose of SEPA's work **must** include improving the health and well-being of people in Scotland along with its environmental duties. This petition is all about the health and well-being of people using the seas and beaches around Scotland. SEPA cannot have sloping shoulders when it comes to health and well-being issues by cherry picking the more straightforward issues it deals with.

The duty of the Scottish Government is to direct SEPA to fulfil all of its regulatory duties. Raw sewage outflow pipes (broken or not) are an environmental issue PLUS a huge health and well-being issue to the people in Scotland.