

Dear Mrs Michelle,

I am writing in response to the general enquiry, that you sent in August. We apologise for not responding sooner, but unfortunately we were unable to find your original email.

Thank you for your enquiry about the maintenance in the area of Williton Parish Council, on the Doniford Stream and Monksilver Stream. Regarding your specific questions please see my response below in *italics*.

1. Reconsideration of the decision to withdraw watercourse maintenance in areas where there is a known flood risk.

*We will consult people and partners locally over a 6 month period, including riparian owners, Natural England and the Internal Drainage Boards, to see if there is any information that will help support the case to fund future maintenance at these locations. Once the consultation process is complete, we will summarise our findings and make a decision on whether to continue bidding for funds to do the works. The locations will remain as statutory Main Rivers and we will be able to maintain them in future using our permissive powers if more funding becomes available.*

2. Clarification of the rationale behind this decision.

*The locations where people have received maintenance withdrawal notices are places where maintenance has already not been done for a number of years. These notices therefore do not represent a further reduction of what is delivered on the ground. There is no statutory requirement for us to consult riparian owners, but we will always try to do so where possible. It has not been possible to consult in advance on this occasion, as the work had already become unaffordable*

3. Confirmation on whether emergency clearance work will continue to be carried out by the Environment Agency where necessary.

*We will continue to respond to incidents like channel blockages and repairing flood defences, as before.*

We believe that you had a further query regarding insurance. I am sorry that we are unable to provide a response to this at the moment, but we aim to send you a further email early next week.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely,

WSX Area Customers and Engagement Team