



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Councillor Bruce McDonald
Leader
Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre
Esher KT10 9SD

03 November 2023

Dear Councillor McDonald,

Thank you for your letter of 12 October regarding illegal moorings. I have met with and encouraged the Environment Agency to enforce stretches of the river in Elmbridge for which they are the landowner.

In August, I invited the Environment Secretary, Thérèse Coffey - whose department oversees the EA - to Molesey to see the moorings first hand. The Environment Secretary agreed to follow up with the EA and ensure they are using all the tools at their disposal to permanently remove these boats. In September, I met jointly with Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) Chief Executive, Adam Chalmers, the EA, and river users, to seek a joined-up solution to enforcement.

All relevant authorities need to take responsibility for law enforcement, which is why the performance of EBC is so disappointing. I have consistently called for Elmbridge Borough Council to implement a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to prohibit illegal moorings on council-owned land. Despite already consulting on a PSPO in 2019 and 2023, you have signalled your intent to hold yet another consultation. In July, this third consultation was promised 'in the next few months.' Yet, almost six months later, there has been no action from you.

It is the overwhelming view of my constituents that Elmbridge Borough Council should begin enforcing against illegal moorings on council-owned land as soon possible, instead of lamely pointing the finger at others. The PSPO would apply to Albany Reach, Ditton Reach, City Wharf, Hurst Park Open Space, Cigarette Island, Cowey Sale, and Surrey County Council's land adjacent to Hampton Court Bridge – so proper enforcement would make a real difference to residents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominic Raab".