

Name: Paul Aubert

I recently had my application to connect to the public sewer in Trinity rejected, and was awaiting this "strategy" with optimism that the Government was finally on course to address the capacity issues with the public sewer.

Unfortunately, 5 cups of tea and 2 packets of biscuits later (it's just shy of 200 pages) I'm absolutely none the wiser as to what the solution is and how long I can expect to wait before my family can can "enjoy" what can only be described as basic public infrastructure.

If the conclusions are anything to go by then am I right in thinking there are no material improvements planned over the next ten years or so? The executive summary was equally as vague, essentially saying "it's going to take a long time and a lot of money to sort this out". In fact, the entire document is ambiguous and clear on the problems, but opaque and non committal on solutions.

I've written numerous letters to Infrastructure and senior politicians raising these issues and concerns and been fed a pretty consistent party line of "we recongise there is a problem. Apologies for the inconvenience".

The Infrastructure Minister, obviously preoccupied with political manoeuvring, hasn't even had the decency to respond. I'd encourage people to read my correspondence with the Infrastructure department on this matter for a "warts and all" account of how poorly this situation is being managed.

What I find utterly appalling in this so-called strategy is the disregard for people currently affected by the Island's inadequate infrastructure. 1 in 4 houses in Trinity are not connected to the mains public sewer and I know for a fact there are many families who find themselves in a similar situation to me. There's no mention of addressing our predicament, only accommodating new development.

One final point to conclude on; after having my application to connect to the sewer rejected and told that all other applications in Trinity had also been rejected over the last year, I submitted a freedom of information request for records of all applications made to connect to the public sewer over the last couple of years, as I was naturally sceptical. I was absolutely flabbergasted by the response; "sorry we don't keep these records". And that was the end of the matter.

I cannot for one minute believe there are no records kept. I'd maybe expect this from somewhere like Russia or North Korea, but it is wholly unacceptable and frankly incompetent if that is in fact the case. How on earth can you hold people and departments to account? The cynic in me tells me it's convenient for such records not to exist.

Again, should anybody want to obtain my letters on this matter or wish to engage in further discussion, please feel free to drop me a line.

Regards,

Paul