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Dear Ms Cranmer,

Thank you for your email of 21 November 2020.

Longton sewer is a combined sewer taking both foul and surface water flows, and is known to be hydraulically inadequate. There are various factors that contribute to hydraulic inadequacy, including changing weather patterns, small scale property development (such as increased hardstanding from driveways, patios or conservatories) and large scale property development such as new housing.

I am aware of our duties under the Water Industry Act however, due to the level of investment required to resolve hydraulic inadequacy issues, it requires us to prioritise this across the North West, taking into account the scale, frequency and impact the issue can have. Our prioritisation review for the Longton sewer is due to be completed mid-2021, after this work is completed we will be in a better position to share with you the likely timescales involved for any future investment into the Longton sewer.