

The following statement has been released by United Utilities through Chorley Borough Council on 28 February 2005.

“United Utilities maintain and operate the public sewer network on the Wymott estate where in truth there have been very few reported problems associated with the performance of the public sewers.

We maintain a database of all incidents related to the performance of the public sewer network which dates back to the late 1980's. Between February 1991 and January 2003 there were only 4 recorded incidents affecting properties on Glover Close and none reported for Cutts Close. Of those that were reported all were routine blockages dealt with by jetting, 3 on the foul system and 1 on the surface water.

It is unlikely that the public foul sewer would be causing any restrictions in toilet use at the properties, as the nearest foul sewers are out in the public highway. There may however be some inadequacies on the private drains serving individual or groups of properties which may cause or contribute to the problems you refer to. It is the responsibility of the owner/individual or groups of individuals having benefit of those private drains to maintain them.

If there is a problem with water standing on the highway during and after periods of rainfall then it may be that there is a problem with the highway drainage system, we have no reports of the surface water sewers surcharging during rainfall which would indicate a partial blockage or hydraulic inadequacy. Lancashire County Council are the highway authority responsible for maintaining the roadside gullies which collect and subsequently discharge run-off to the surface water sewer. It may be that the gullies are not cleaned out on a regular basis, the normal standard of service you should expect is for the gullies to be cleaned out every six months.

Any residents who experience problems in the future which they feel could be attributed to the performance of the public sewer network should contact United Utilities Service Enquiries on 08456 - 020406. The relevant details will then be passed on to the field team for assessment and action if required.”