# Waterborne Parasite Outbreak in Brixham, Devon Disrupts Thousands with 'Boil Water Notice'



A waterborne parasite outbreak in Brixham, Devon, has impacted around 16,000 households and businesses, leading to a "boil water notice" issued by South West Water (SWW). Residents have been advised to boil and cool tap water before consumption. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has confirmed 46 cases of cryptosporidium, with symptoms such as diarrhoea and vomiting, and anticipates more cases.

Conservative MP Anthony Mangnall criticized SWW’s response, calling it "contemptible and just generally incompetent." The water company's investigation identified a damaged valve on private land as a potential cause, which has been isolated and repaired. Compensation of £115 has been offered to affected customers.

Local businesses report significant financial losses and a decrease in customer footfall. SWW set up water distribution points and continues its efforts to resolve the contamination. Health officials warn that symptoms may continue to develop over the next two weeks despite the initial contamination being addressed.