



## STATEMENT

Thursday, June 9, 2016

### **‘Do Not Swim’ Notice issued for Velvet Strand Beach, Portmarnock,**

A ‘Do Not Swim’ Notice has been issued today by Fingal County Council for Velvet Strand Beach, Portmarnock.

The Prohibitive Notice has been issued as a precautionary measure following an overflow at the Portmarnock Strand Pumping Station which was caused by a technical issue.

The ‘Do Not Swim’ notice will be in place until Monday at the earliest when results of water sampling tests, which were taken today, are made available to the Council.

Velvet Strand Beach, Portmarnock, had been under an advisory notice since Tuesday due to a short term overflow event from another pump station at Portmarnock following local heavy rainfall on Monday, June 6. Advisory notices were also issued in respect of Claremont Beach and Sutton Burrow Beach and the results of samples taken at all three locations are due tomorrow (Friday, June 10).

The decision to issue Prohibitive or Advisory Notices in respect of swimming at Fingal beaches is made as a precautionary measure where it is believed that there may have been deterioration in the water quality due to a suspected or anticipated pollution event. It is done to ensure that the health of bathers is not compromised. Beach users are requested to respect the notices when they are in place. Members of the public intending to enter the water at any beach in Ireland are advised to check the water quality in advance by accessing the EPA website at <http://splash.epa.ie/#> or by checking the notice board at the entrance to each beach.

‘Do Not Swim’ notices are currently in force at four other beaches in Fingal due to a suspected deterioration in water quality. The beaches are open but swimming is prohibited at Balbriggan Front Strand Beach, Skerries South Beach,

Loughshinny Beach and Rush North Beach. Water samples were taken at these locations on Tuesday and results are due tomorrow.

ENDS