



STATEMENT

Thursday, June 16, 2016

‘Do Not Swim’ Notices lifted

‘Do Not Swim’ Notices at three beaches in Fingal have been lifted following water sample tests.

Prohibitive Notices were issued as a precautionary measure on Monday for Velvet Strand Beach, Portmarnock; Balbriggan Front Strand Beach and Skerries South Beach. They were issued following overflows at the Portmarnock Strand Pumping Station and Hampton Cove Pumping Station, Balbriggan due to technical problems.

Irish Water and Fingal County Council are working closely to resolve the drainage issues in Fingal to ensure disruption is minimised in future. Irish Water is currently investing €85m in wastewater projects in Fingal that are either at planning, design or construction stages.

The technical problems at the pumping stations in Portmarnock and Balbriggan which caused this week’s overflows have been resolved. Irish Water is now reviewing the pumping works at Hampton Cove to ensure that the pumps in place are able to deal with both normal and high loads and will replace the pumps should this be required following the review.

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.

ENDS