



STATEMENT

Monday, June 13, 2016

‘Do Not Swim’ Notices issued for Portmarnock, Balbriggan and Skerries

‘Do Not Swim’ Notices have been issued today by Fingal County Council for Velvet Strand Beach, Portmarnock; Balbriggan Front Strand Beach and Skerries South Beach.

The Prohibitive Notices have been issued as a precautionary measure following overflows at the Portmarnock Strand Pumping Station and Hampton Cove Pumping Station, Balbriggan due to technical problems.

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, has been assured by Irish Water that they view the issue as serious and engineers are currently on site at both pumping stations.

“The Acting Managing Director of Irish Water, Jerry Grant, has assured me they have prioritised the matter and are doing everything they can to resolve the situation as soon as possible,” said Mr Reid.

The ‘Do Not Swim’ notices will remain in place until the results of water sampling tests are made available to the Council on Thursday, June 16. If the results are satisfactory the notices will be withdrawn.

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