

REPORT ON THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE DUE TO BATHING PROHIBATION PERIOD

A16- Wied iz-Zurrieq Qrendi
(9th – 18th August 2025)

On the evening of 8th August 2025, the Environmental Health Directorate (EHD) received a complaint regarding sewage overflowing from a cesspit in the area, with sewage reportedly reaching the bathing water.

An onsite investigation was carried out by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) at 7:00 AM on 9th August 2025 where it was confirmed that an overflow of sewage into the sea had likely occurred during the night. At the time of inspection, the overflow had stopped, but the area remained damp, as shown in Figures 1–3.



Figure 1: Origin of overflow



Figure 2: Overflow into the street

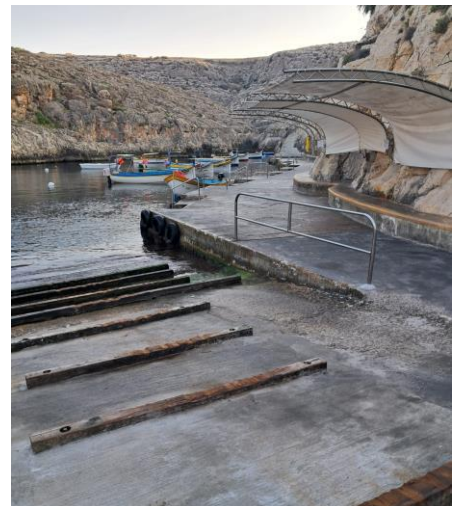


Figure 3: Overflow ending into the sea

On 12th August, the overflow resumed. A colour test was conducted at a private property with a drainage system connected to a cesspit. Approximately one hour after the test began, the coloured water was observed overflowing into the street, which led directly to the bathing water.

Samples were taken both before and after the test to assess sewage contamination and the presence of fluorescein. The results confirmed sewage contamination in both samples, and fluorescence was only visible in the post-test sample, confirming a link between the property's drainage system and the overflow.



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Figure 4: Area of overflow



Figure 5: Area of overflow



Figure 6: Sample with visible fluorescence colour

Following the confirmation, the EHOs were notified, and the EHD issued an Emergency Prohibition Order. The premises was prohibited from operating until the cesspits was rendered leak-proof.

Remedial works on the cesspits were carried out on 14th August 2025. A pressure test conducted on 16th August confirmed that the cesspits was leak-proof, and the Emergency Prohibition Order was subsequently lifted.

The official bathing area was temporary closed in accordance with the procedure stipulated by L.N. 125 of 2008, as per press release [PR251428](#)

The map below indicating the affected area.



Figure 7: Site map

Public information signs indicating that the bathing area is temporary closed were also affixed by the EHOs (as below photos).



Figure 8: Sign not recommend for bathing



Figure 9: Sign not recommended for bathing

Sea water samples were collected from Site Code A16 and sent to the Public Health Laboratory Services (PHLS) for analysis for the microbiological parameters, Escherichia coli (EC) and Intestinal enterococci (IE) as per L.N. 125 of 2008. Table 1 below lists the samples details and results.

DATE	RESULTS	
	EC / 100 mls	IE / 100 mls
9/08/2025	45	342
10/8/2025	15	15
11/08/2025	15	15
12/08/2025	15	15

Threshold limits for microbiological parameters as per Regulation 8(a)

Escherichia coli (EC) – 1000 cfu/100 mls

Intestinal enterococci (IE) – 500 cfu/100 mls

Table 1: Sample Results

Following the above results, on 18th August 2025, the Department of Information (DOI) issued another press release ([PR251453](#)) to inform the public that the official bathing site (Code A 16) was once again fit for bathing, and that the previous warning had been withdrawn. The onsite public information signs indicating the temporary closure of the bathing area were also removed.

Conclusion

The site was closed due to a sewage overflow from a privately owned cesspit, which posed a risk to public health and had the potential to impact bathing water quality. As shown in the sample results in Table 1, there was no “short-term pollution” as defined in Article 3 of Legal



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Notice 125 of 2008. The warning was lifted once the necessary remedial works to eliminate the nuisance were completed, and it was confirmed that the bathing water quality complied with the required standards.