

REPORT ON THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE DUE TO BATHING PROHIBATION PERIOD

**B08 Left side of Balluta Bay St Julian's
(17/06-23/06/2026)**

On 17th June 2026, during the bathing water monitoring programme, it was noted that of foul water was overflowing from a gutter connected to a commercial premises into the bathing water of site B08.

The case was investigated further on the same day by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), and it was confirmed that the foul water was coming from an infiltration in a commercial premises which was ending up into a gutter leading directly into the sea (see figure 1). A sample was taken from the infiltrating water, was analysed and it was confirmed that the overflowing foul water was sewage.

The EHOs immediately contacted the Water Services Corporation (WSC) to investigate the sewer network. Subsequent investigations by the WSC identified a blockage in the sewage system. The obstruction was caused by sizeable stone blocks and other construction waste, as shown in Figure 2. The blockage was promptly cleared by the WSC under the supervision of the Environmental Health Officers.

The overflow stopped the day after the stoppage was removed.



Figure 2: Overflow into the sea



Figure 1: Material removed from the sewer line

The official bathing area was temporary closed in accordance with the procedure stipulated by L.N. 125 of 2008, as per press release ([PR261030](#))

The map below indicating the affected area.



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Figure 3: Site map of effected area

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



Figure 4: Warning Sign



Figure 5: Warning Sign

Sea water samples were collected from Site Code B08 and B08 and sent to the 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.



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DATE	SITE CODE	RESULTS	
		EC / 100 mls	IE / 100 mls
17/06/2026	B08	5650	8000
	B09	33	15
18/06/2026	B08	82	24
	B09	92	33
19/06/2026	B08	19	42
	B09	38	69
20/06/2026	B08	79	42
	B09	60	19
Threshold limits for microbiological parameters as per Regulation 8(a) <i>Escherichia coli (EC) – 1000 cfu/100 mls</i> <i>Intestinal enterococci (IE) – 500 cfu/100 mls</i>			

Table 1: Sample Results

Following the above results, on 23rd June 2026 the DOI issued another press release ([PR261055](#)) to inform the public that the official bathing site (Code B08) 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 which affected the bathing water quality for less than 24 hours. As per sample results presented in Table 1, there was no “short-term pollution” as defined in Article 3 of L.N. 125 of 2008. The nuisance was removed, and subsequent sample results were found to be in conformity with the legislation.