Direttorat ghas-Sahha Ambjentali
Environmental Health Directorate

REPORT ON THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE DUE TO BATHING PROHIBATION PERIOD
Ta' Xbiex
(04/06-11/06/2026)

On 4th June 2026, the Environmental Health Directorate received a complaint regarding foul water overflowing into the sea.

Following an onsite investigation by the Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), it was confirmed that there was an overflow of foul water originating from a stormwater flood relief outlet and ending up into the sea and posing a potential risk of contamination to the surrounding marine waters. As indicated in figure 1. The competent authority responsible for the stormwater flood relief system was immediately informed to investigate.

On the following day, part of the water from the basin within the tunnel was emptied to prevent further discharge of foul water into the sea.

Public information signs advising against bathing were affixed at the site as per figure 2. These signs were only removed once the laboratory results, as indicated in Table 1, confirmed that the bathing water quality was not affected and was in conformity with the applicable legislation.

Figure 1:Effected site

Figure 2: Warning Sign

Although this location is not designated as an official bathing site as it lies within harbour areas, bathing is discouraged due to the elevated risk to public health. Hence the public was advised to refrain from bathing in the affected area as a precautionary measure until further notice.

Sea water samples were collected from Ta Xbiex 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**
4/06/2026	51	20
5/06/2026	15	22
6/06/2026	20	45
7/06/2026	15	87
8/06/2026	15	24
9/06/2026	15	15

Table 1: Sample Results

Conclusion

The incident was temporary and effectively contained following the intervention carried out on the stormwater system. Laboratory results confirmed that bathing water quality was not adversely affected, and no further risk to public health was identified.