

REPORT ON THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE DUE TO BATHING PROHIBATION PERIOD FOR AREA BEWTEEN A13 AND A14 (8TH June to 15th June 2026)

On 8 June 2026, a complaint of sewage overflow originating from a private residence in Triq it-Tankjiet, Birżebbuġa, was investigated by Environmental Health Officers. It was confirmed that the sewage overflow into the street was subsequently reaching the bathing area below Dawret il-Qalb Imqaddsa, Birżebbuġa, as illustrated in Figures 1 to 3.



Figure 1: Overflow into the street

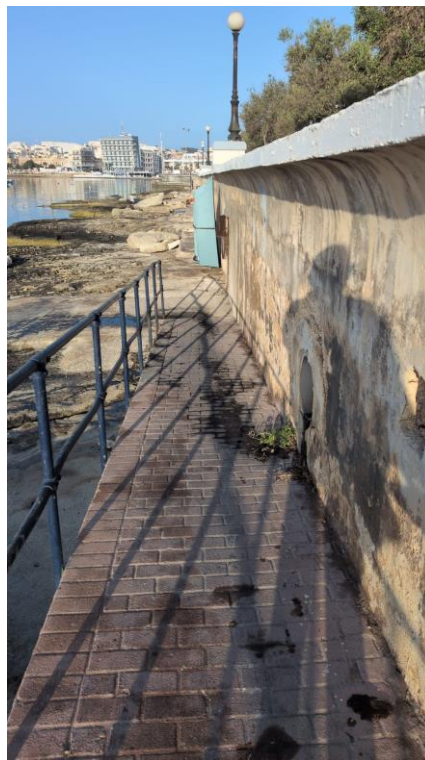


Figure 2: Overflow from rainwater culvert

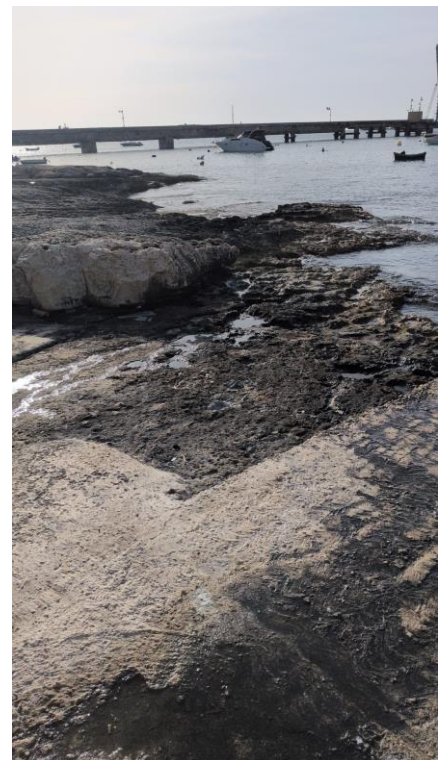


Figure 3: Overflow into the sea

The EHOs took the necessary measures to safeguard the bathers health by temporarily closing the official bathing area in accordance with the procedure stipulated under L.N. 125 of 2008. The closure was also communicated to the general public by means of a press release ([PR260986](#)). The sewage overflow was originating from a defective private drain system. The EHOs issued an abatement notice to the owner of the residence, and eventually legal action to remedy the situation.

The map below indicates the affected area.



Figure 4: Site map of effected area

Public information signs indicating that the bathing area that was temporarily closed were also affixed on site by the EHOs (as shown in the photos below).

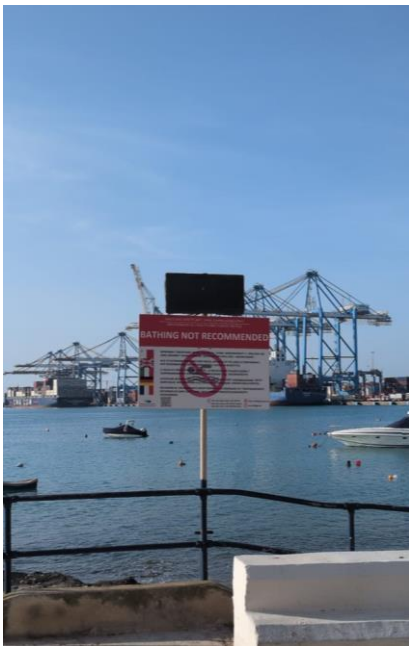


Figure 5: Sign 1



Figure 6: Sign 2

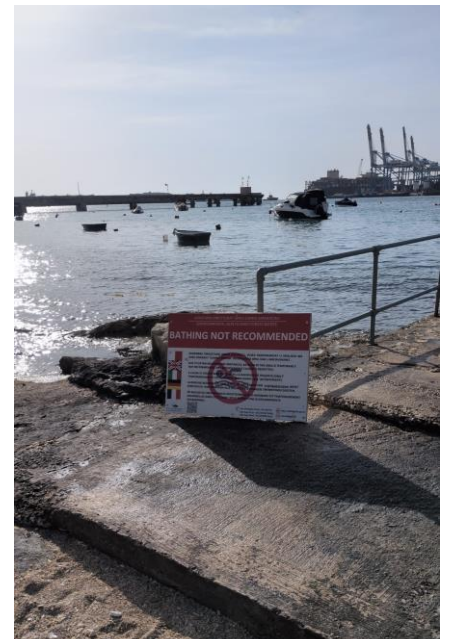


Figure 7: Sign 3

Daily sea water samples were collected from Site Codes A13 and A14, as well as from the area close to the sewage overflow which was situated between the two monitoring points (A13–A14). Elevated samples were submitted on the same day of collection to the laboratory for the microbiological analysis of parameters *Escherichia coli* (EC) and intestinal enterococci (IE) in accordance with L.N. 125 of 2008.

The site was reopened once the sewage overflow had ceased and three consecutive sample results showed that the area is again safe for bathing (see Table 1 below, shows the sampling details and the corresponding results.)

SAMPLING DATE	SITE CODE	RESULTS	
		EC / 100 mls	IE / 100 mls
8/06/2026	A13	15	29
	A13-A14	15	15
	A14	15	21
9/06/2026	A13	15	15
	A13-A14	15	22
	A14	15	15
10/06/2026	A13	15	15
	A13-A14	15	16
	A14	15	15
Threshold limits for microbiological parameters as per Regulation 8(a) <i>Escherichia coli</i> (EC) – 1000 cfu/100 mls <i>Intestinal enterococci</i> (IE) – 500 cfu/100 mls			

Table 1: Sample Results

The health warning was lifted on the 15/06/2026, and the Department of Information (DOI) issued a second press release ([PR261013](#)) to inform the public that the official bathing area between A13 and A14 was once again fit for bathing. The on-site public information signs indicating the temporary closure of the bathing area were also removed.

Conclusion

The site was closed due to a sewage overflow originating from a private residence, which discharged into the bathing water and had the potential to deteriorate water quality. As per sample results presented in Table 1, no “short-term pollution” was identified in accordance with Article 3 of L.N. 125 of 2008. The warning was subsequently lifted once the nuisance was resolved and three consecutive sample results confirmed that the bathing water quality was safe again.