

**REPORT ON THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE DUE TO A SHORT-TERM POLLUTION AT
SITE CODE C29 and C30 Qawra
20th August till 1st September 2025**

On 20th August 2025 a complaint received through social media on foul water being discharged into the bathing site. At 2pm an investigation was carried out by the Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) within the Water Regulatory and Auditing Unit and it was observed that wastewater was seeping through the crevices of the manhole and leaking out of a room where a wastewater manhole is located.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

To confirm the origin of the wastewater, the EHPs conducted a colour test in the manhole, which verified that the connection was to the manhole and not to any lower-level drains. The responsible persons were instructed to collect and remove as much of the foul water as possible, including using pumps to extract any remaining puddles in the shallow part of the bathing area and rocks. Thorough cleaning was also ordered to eliminate residual contamination (figures 4-6).

The official bathing area was temporary closed in accordance with the procedure stipulated by L.N. 125 of 2008, as per press release **PR251467**
<https://www.gov.mt/en/Government/DOI/Press%20Releases/Pages/2025/09/01/pr251493en.aspx>

The map below indicating the affected area.



Public information signs indicating that the bathing area is temporary closed were also affixed by the EHOs (figures 10-13).



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Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12 and 13

Sea water samples were collected from Site Codes C29, C30 and from the percolation and sent to the Public Health Laboratory Services (PHLS) for analysis for the microbiological parameters, *Escherichia coli* (EC) and *Intestinal enterococci* (IE). Table 1 below lists the samples details and results.

DATE	SITE CODE	RESULTS	
		EC / 100 mls	IE / 100 mls
20/08/2025	Sea water near percolation - C29.1	85,000	1,500
20/08/2025	Sea water - C29	62,000	1,500
20/08/2025	Sea water C30	1,200	580
21/08/2025	C29.1	260	150
21/08/2025	C29	42	15
21/08/2025	C30	15	15
22/08/2025	C29.1	3,700	150
22/08/2025	C29	15	15
22/08/2025	C30	15	15
23/08/2025	C29.1	60	48
23/08/2025	C29	30	15
23/08/2025	C30	20	15



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24/08/2025	C29.1	15	38
24/08/2025	C29	52	15
24/08/2025	C30	90	46
25/08/2025	C29.1	620	15
25/08/2025	C29	15	15
25/08/2025	C30	15	15
26/08/2025	C29.1	80	15
26/08/2025	C29	30	15
26/08/2025	C30	30	15
27/08/2025	C29.1	62	15
27/08/2025	C29	15	15
27/08/2025	C30	26	36
28/08/2025	C29.1	56	30
28/08/2025	C29	42	15
28/08/2025	C30	15	20
29/08/2025	C29.1	15	15
29/08/2025	C29	15	24
29/08/2025	C30	15	28
30/08/2025	C29.1	15	15
30/08/2025	C29	15	15
30/08/2025	C30	15	15
31/08/2025	C29.1	15	15
31/08/2025	C29	15	15
31/08/2025	C30	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-

On **1st September 2025** the DOI issued another press release **PR251493**

<https://www.gov.mt/en/Government/DOI/Press%20Releases/Pages/2025/09/01/pr251493.aspx> to inform the public that the official bathing site (Codes C29 and C30) were once again fit for bathing and that the previous warning had been withdrawn following 3 consecutive sample results are conform to LN 125 of 2008. The onsite public information signs indicating the temporary closure of the bathing area were also removed.

Conclusion

The cause of this short-term pollution at the bathing area with **Site Code C29 and C30 Beneath Qawra Coast Road, St Paul's Bay** was an overflow from the sewer system. The short-term pollution lasted **for 3 days**. However, the bathing site could only be officially opened once 3 consecutive laboratory results confirmed that both microbiological parameters were within the threshold limits stipulated in L.N 125 of 2008.