

REPORT ON THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE DUE TO BATHING PROHIBATION PERIOD

**B10 Exiles Bay- sandy beach Sliema
(28/07/2026-5/08/2026)**

On 28 July 2026, the Environmental Health Directorate (EHD) was notified of foul water overflowing into the sea beneath the public conveniences at Ġnien l-Indipendenza, Sliema.

Upon arrival, Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) confirmed that foul water was discharging into the bathing area. The EHOs immediately notified the Sliema Local Council, to check if the overflow was coming from the public toilet facilities.

The Colour test confirmed that the foul water overflow was coming from the public toilet sump, as shown in Figures 1 to 3. Consequently, the EHO issued an Amendment Notice under the Public Health Act, requiring the responsible parties to undertake the necessary remedial works and ensure that the sump was rendered leak-proof. Furthermore, an Emergency Control Order was issued requiring the immediate closure of the public toilets until a colour test confirmed that the sump was leak-proof.



Figure 2: Colour test in sump



Figure 1: Dye into the sea



Figure 3: Dye on shore

The affected area is shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Site map of effected area

Warning signs were affixed on site, as shown in Figures 5 and 6, to inform the public that bathing was not recommended in the area. Furthermore, the EHD Bathing Water Portal was updated to indicate that bathing site B10 was closed to bathing.



Figure 5: sign bathing not recommended



Figure 6: Sign bathing not recommended

Daily sea water samples were collected from point of overflow with in the area of site code B10 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
28/07/2026	112	66
29/07/2026	15	57
30/07/2026	15	52
31/07/2026	14	78
01/08/2026	24	108
02/08/2026	15	61
03/08/2026	15	58
04/08/2026	32	103
05/08/2026	20	40

*Table 1: Sample Results (Threshold limits for microbiological parameters as per Regulation 8(a); *Escherichia coli* (EC) – 1000 cfu/100 mls & *Intestinal enterococci* (IE) – 500 cfu/100 mls)*

Following the temporary closure of the public toilets, the overflow of foul water into the sea ceased. The sea water sample results, as shown in Table 1, indicated that no short-term pollution event had occurred. Consequently, the warning signs were removed, and the EHD Bathing Water Portal was updated accordingly to reflect that bathing at site B10 was once again considered safe for bathing.

Conclusion

The bathing prohibition at B10 Exiles Bay, Sliema, was implemented as a precautionary public health measure following the confirmed discharge of foul water from a leaking sump associated with the public toilet facilities. Although the source of contamination was identified and the overflow ceased following the temporary closure of the toilets, the EHD considered it necessary to prohibit bathing until the risk to public health had been assessed and eliminated. The microbiological results obtained during the monitoring period remained well below the threshold values established under L.N. 125 of 2008, indicating that no short-term pollution event had occurred. Following confirmation that the overflow had ceased and that bathing water quality remained satisfactory, the warning signs were removed, and the EHD Bathing Water Portal was updated accordingly.