

**REPORT ON THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE DUE TO BATHING PROHIBITION
PERIOD
C22 Tax Xama St Pauls Bay
(27/07/2026-3/08/2026)**

On 27 August 2026, the Environmental Health Directorate (EHD) received a complaint regarding a significant sewage overflow into the bathing area at Ta' Xama, below the public school in St Paul's Bay.

Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) went on site, confirmed the overflow (as shown in Figure 1) and immediately notified the Water Services Corporation (WSC) to investigate. The WSC personnel came on site and noted that the overflow was caused by a failure in the sewage pumping station located across the road. The WSC carried out the necessary repairs and it was visually evident that the overflow ceased immediately.



Figure 1: Sewage overflowing directly into the sea

Figure 2 shows the area affected by the sewage overflow.

As a precautionary measure, warning signs were placed in the proximity (as shown in Figures 3 to 5) to inform the public that bathing was not recommended in the affected area,. The EHD Bathing Water Portal was also updated to notify the public that bathing was not recommended at C22 Ta' Xama, St Paul's Bay.



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Environmental Health Directorate



Figure 2: Site map indicating the affected area



Figure 4: Sign not recommended for bathing 1

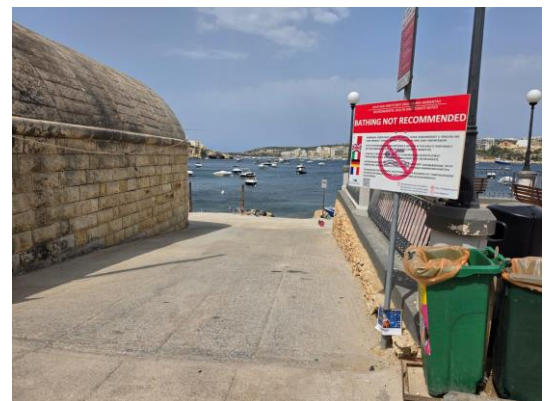


Figure 3: Sign not recommended for bathing 2

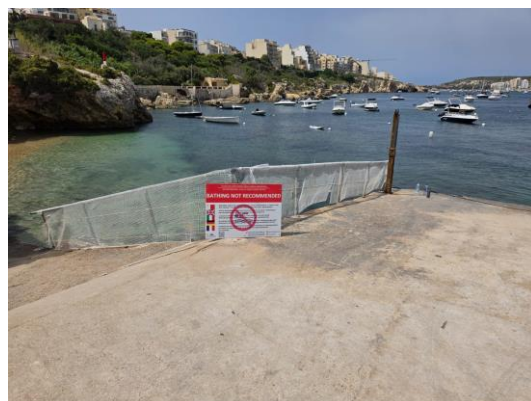


Figure 5: Sign not recommended for bathing 3

Sea water samples were collected from Site Code C22 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
27/07/2026	36,670	11,500
28/07/2026	59	15
28/07/2026	88	33
29/07/2026	15	81
30/07/2026	15	26
31/07/2026	40	36
01/08/2026	59	15

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)

The warning in C22 Ta' Xama, St Paul's Bay was lifted on the 3rd of August 2026, following the confirmation that the sewage overflow had ceased and three consecutive bathing water samples results taken from site were in conformance. The removal of the warning signs and the updating of the EHD Bathing Water Portal were carried out on the same day to reflect that bathing was once again recommended at the site.

Conclusion

The sewage overflow incident at C22 Ta' Xama, St Paul's Bay resulted in a temporary bathing prohibition being issued as a precautionary public health measure due to the risk of microbiological contamination. This event was not classified as a Short-Term Pollution (STP) event, as a bathing prohibition was implemented immediately following confirmation of the sewage discharge. Following the repairs of the pumping station failure and the receipt of three consecutive compliant bathing water results in accordance with L.N. 125 of 2008, the bathing prohibition was lifted on the 3rd of August 2026.