

**REPORT ON THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE DUE TO BATHING PROHIBATION
PERIOD
C23 Il-Bajja tal-Ghazzenin St Pauls Bay
(26/06-3/07/2026)**

On 26 June 2026, a complaint was received reporting an overflow of foul water from a tunnel discharging foul water into the bathing area.

An on-site investigation was carried out on the same day by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), who confirmed the presence of sewage overflowing into the sea (see Figure 1). A dye test was conducted by the EHOs in the presence of Water Services Corporation (WSC) personnel in one of the main sewers located in the vicinity of the tunnel, (see Figure 2).

The test confirmed that the overflow originated from a defective main sewer.



Figure 1: foul water form tunnel



Figure 2: Green Dye carried out from main sewer



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Subsequently, the WSC undertook the necessary remedial works, which included the replacement of the defective sewer section, as shown in figures 3 to 6. Following completion of these works, the sewage overflow ceased.



Figure 3: Change of main sewer inside the tunnel



Figure 4: change of main sewer inside the tunnel



Figure 5: change of main sewer inside the tunnel

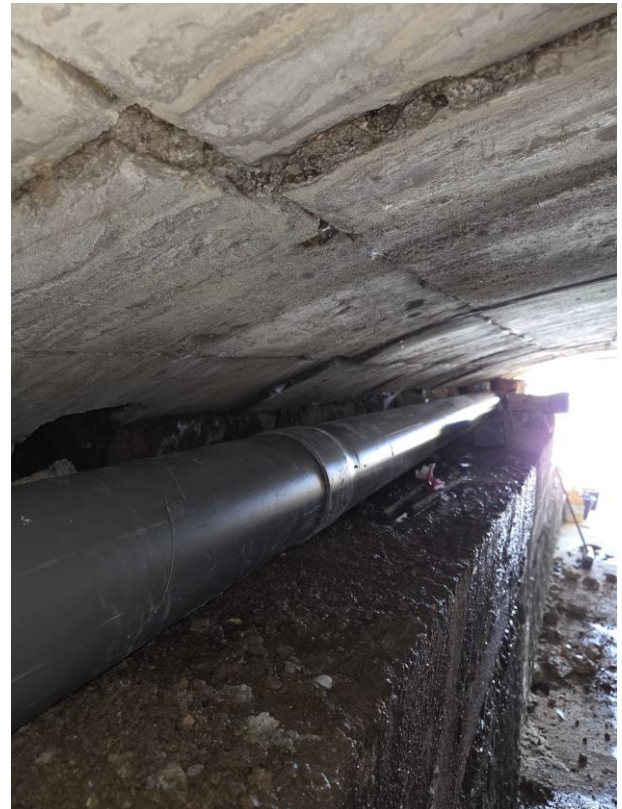


Figure 6: change of main sewer inside the tunnel

The official bathing area was temporary closed in accordance with the procedure stipulated by L.N. 125 of 2008, as per press release ([PR261091en](#))

The map in Figure 7 indicates the affected area.



Figure 3: Site map of effected area

Public information signs indicating that the bathing area is temporary closed were also affixed by the EHOs (as per Figures 8 and 9). The Environmental Health Directorate's Bathing Water Portal was also updated to mark the effected area.



Figure 8: Sign not recommended for bathing



Figure 9: sign not recommended for bathing

Daily sea water samples were collected from Site Code C23 and sent to the Laboratory for the microbiological parameters analysis, 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
26/06/2026	70	47
27/06/2026	59	65
28/06/2026	19	113
29/06/2026	39	21
30/06/2026	87	49

Table 1: Sample Results

Following the conforming microbiological results, the completion of the remedial works, and the confirmation that the sewage overflow had ceased, the bathing area was reopened on 3 July 2026. The on-site public information signs indicating the temporary closure of the bathing area were removed to inform the public that the site was once again fit for bathing. In addition, the EHD Bathing Water Portal was updated accordingly to indicate that the bathing area had been restored to a satisfactory condition and was once again suitable for bathing.

Conclusion

Although a sewage overflow affecting the bathing area was confirmed, all bathing water samples collected remained below the microbiological limits established in the Bathing Water Regulations. Consequently, the incident was managed as a precautionary bathing prohibition rather than a short-term pollution (STP) event. Following the successful completion of remedial works by the WSC and confirmation that the risk to bathers had been eliminated, the bathing prohibition was lifted, and the site was reopened to the public on 3 July 2026.