

**REPORT ON THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE DUE TO
A SHORT-TERM POLLUTION AT
SITE CODE B14
Qui Si Sana Sliema
(3/07-11/07/2026)**

On 3rd July 2026, the Environmental Health Directorate (EHD) received a complaint reporting a significant sewage overflow reaching the bathing waters at bathing site B14 – Qui-Si-Sana, Sliema. An Environmental Health Officer conducted site inspection and confirmed the complaint as per photos 1 to 3.



Figure 1: Origin of overflow into the sea



Figure 2: overflow leading into the sea



Figure 3: Overflow going into the sea



Figure 4: damage in main sewer



Figure 5: damage in main sewer



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Investigations revealed that, during maintenance works, the main sewer located in Qui-Si-Sana Street, Sliema, was accidentally damaged, resulting in sewage discharging into the bathing water as indicated in photos 4 to 5. The Water Services Corporation (WSC) immediately initiated remedial actions, including the repair and replacement of the damaged main sewer and the affected house connection. The repair works were completed within two days of the incident. Figures 6 to 9 show work carried out in the main sewer.

Following completion of the works under the supervision of the Environmental Health Officers, the sewage overflow ceased and no further discharge into the bathing waters was observed.



Figure 6: colour test to check works



Figure 7: main sewer replacement

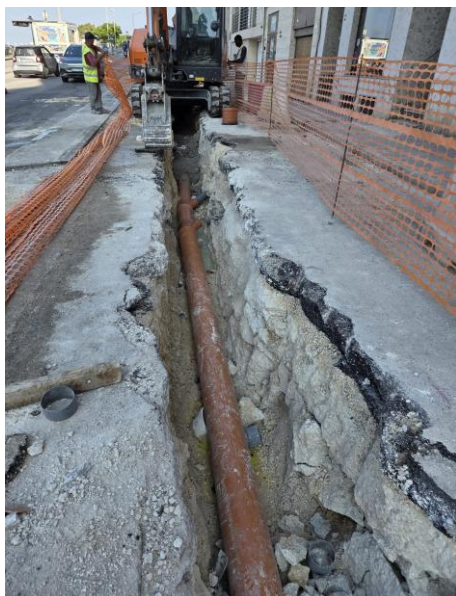


Figure 8: main sewer replacement



Figure 9: works completed and sealed

The EHD published a social media notice to inform the public of the potential health risk (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BPzQH5TXU/>) advising that bathing at Qui-Si-Sana, Sliema, was not recommended. The notice was disseminated through the Directorate's official social media platform. In addition, Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) affixed public information signs at the site indicating the temporary closure of the affected bathing area, and the EHD Bathing Water Portal was updated accordingly to reflect the bathing prohibition and the extent of the affected area.

The map below indicating the affected area.



Figure 10: site map



Figure 11: Sign bathing not recommended



Figure 12: Sign bathing not recommended

Sea water samples were collected from Site Code B14 and sent to the Laboratory Services for analysis for the microbiological parameters, Escherichia coli (EC) and Intestinal enterococci (IE). Table 1 below lists the samples details and results.

DATE	RESULTS	
	EC / 100 mls	IE / 100 mls
3/07/2026	11000	1000
4/07/2026	1220	192
5/07/2026	124	1000
6/07/2026	15	49
7/07/2026	19	77
8/07/2026	15	63

Table 1: Sample Results

On 11th July 2026, following 3 consecutive conforming sample results, the DOI issued a press release ([PR261164](#)) to inform the public that the official bathing site (Code B14) was once again fit for bathing and that the previous warning had been withdrawn. The onsite public information signs indicating the temporary closure of the bathing area were also removed.

Conclusion

A short-term pollution (STP) event occurred at bathing site B14 – Qui-Si-Sana, Sliema following accidental damage to a main sewer, resulting in sewage reaching the bathing waters. The STP lasted approximately 72 hours, after which the source of contamination was repaired and the discharge ceased. The bathing prohibition was lifted once three consecutive seawater samples confirmed compliance with the microbiological standards established under L.N. 125 of 2008.