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Our Ref: redacted Updated Report March 2023

9 March 2023

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Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture
The Sleau Whallian
Foxdale Road
St Johns
Isle of Man
IM4 3AS

Dear Redacted,

Re: - Sulby Claddaghs – Waste Water Disposal from the Toilet Block

We understand the IOM Government propose to operate the Sulby Claddaghs camping site for the TT 2023 period and DEFA seek advice on how the existing wastewater disposal arrangements could be optimised.

We have previously reported to DEFA, on the wastewater disposal arrangements, in our report dated July 2018.

As noted in our report, wastewater from the toilet block, discharges to two bulb type septic tanks, with downstream 110mm pvc pipe tail drains.

The bulb type septic tanks are believed to 3000 litre tanks and of insufficient size to serve the camp site water consumption.

The condition of the bulb type tanks is difficult to establish as the internal tank linings are heavily soiled. Further attempts to empty and CCTV the internal surfaces of the tanks are unlikely to be conclusive as to the tank's structural condition.

The tail drains serving the septic tanks are known to be defective, as CCTV inspection has identified distortion / back falls and structural pipe damage.

The subsoils on the site are unsuitable for tail drains as noted in our July 2018 report and together with the high site water table, there is a significant risk of pollution of ground water.

Replacement of the defective tail drain pipework will not negate the risk of ground water pollution.

For short term use of the camping site, it is advisable to minimise the discharge of wastewater into the septic tanks with maximum use of above ground wastewater storage ie portaloos.

The conclusion and recommendations in our 2018 report and update letter of 16 February 2022 remain valid.

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Yours sincerely

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