

GD 2021/0011

DEFA Policy Reference EPU/01/2021

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Rheynn Chymmiltaght, Bee as Eirinys



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Water Pollution (Bathing Water Standards and Objectives) Scheme 2021

Policy for the designation of bathing waters in the Isle of Man

Policy No.: EPU/01/2021

Policy Approved: 03/02/2021

Effective Date: 01/04/2021

Last Revised: 01/12/2022

Review Date: 01/12/2023

Version: 2

Policy Owner: Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Policy Contact: Environmental Protection Unit, Tel: 01624 685885, Email: environmentalprotection@gov.im

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how the Department will implement the Water Pollution (Bathing Water Standards and Objectives) Scheme 2021 (the 'Scheme').

The Scheme has been developed based on information included in 'A strategy for the adoption of the 2006 Bathing Water Directive Standards in the Isle of Man' [GD No 2019/0087] as approved by Tynwald in December 2019.

Whilst regulatory standards are provided for in the Water Pollution (Bathing Water Standards & Objectives) Scheme 2021 this Policy sets out the more detailed requirements for the following aspects:

- Identification of bathing season
- Application and designation of bathing waters
- Designated bathing waters
- Monitoring
- Bathing water profiles
- Beach signage
- Non-compliance/Investigations
- End of season assessment

2. Identification of Bathing Season

For the purposes of this policy, the bathing season in the Isle of Man is defined 'as the period beginning on 1 May and ending at the end of the day on 18 September in each year'. This season covers a 20 week period.

3. Application and Designation of Bathing Waters

Local Authorities must apply to DEFA for a bathing water location within their constituency to become designated under this policy.

The application form and guidance notes are available online at; <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/environmental-protection-unit/bathing-water-quality/>

Screenshots of the forms are also presented in Appendix 1 and 2 for reference.

The application process requires information to be provided on the approximate number of beach users during the defined bathing season; the facilities within 1 mile and details of any community environmental awareness activities in place to increase the protection of water quality.

If a bathing water application is approved the Local Authority will have the responsibility of acting as the beach controller.

'The beach controller is required to control the land immediately adjacent to the bathing water which is normally used to access the bathing water from the landward side and where the bathing water is tidal, control of such land above the high tide mark. This includes ensuring all the required information is displayed within the vicinity of the designated bathing water. Controllers do not have any responsibility for water quality. Monitoring and investigations will be undertaken by DEFA during the bathing season (1 May to 18 September).'

If the land is not owned by the Local Authority, the Department will require evidence that the land owner has been contacted and permission has been granted to submit the application.

All applications will be reviewed with Manx Utilities to determine whether there is the necessary infrastructure in place to support the designation of a bathing water. Necessary infrastructure includes appropriate treatment of foul water and modelling of any discharges into the area. The

Department will make the final decision on designations.

The Local Authority will be notified by DEFA of the outcome of its beach designation application within 3 months and include details of the process thereafter.

If the application is not successful, the Local Authority will be informed of the reasons for this and advised on what is required in order to achieve successful designation in the future.

If the site is designated DEFA will develop a bathing water profile, beach signage and establish plans to monitor and protect the bathing water.

A list of all designated bathing waters will be published on the Government webpage and all monitoring data will be uploaded to the webpage on a weekly basis throughout the defined bathing season.

Process and outline timescale;

1	Application and evidence received by DEFA and acknowledged.
2	DEFA assesses the information provided by the Local Authority and discusses it with Manx Utilities to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to support a designation.
3	If more information is required to progress the application DEFA will contact the relevant Local Authority and advise it of the information required in order to progress the application.
4	DEFA will make the final decision and will feedback any concerns or comments to the Local Authority to be addressed.

At any point in the process DEFA may ask the applicant to provide additional information.

4. Designated Bathing Waters 2023

The designation of the bathing waters included in table 1 below arose after work undertaken with the local authorities since 2020 in accordance with Section 3 of this policy.

Monitoring will be carried out at these named locations during every bathing season which commences on the 1st May for a period of 20 weeks.

Table 1. Designated bathing waters

Bathing Waters
Bay ny Carrickey – Brewery Beach
Castletown
Douglas Central
Glen Wyllin
Port Erin
Port St Mary – Chapel Beach
North Ramsey
South Ramsey

5. Monitoring

The Department will publish a bathing water monitoring programme on the Government website before the start of every bathing season. It will detail the proposed sampling dates and back-up dates if monitoring is cancelled due to adverse weather or unforeseen circumstances.

Monitoring will be undertaken for intestinal enterococci and *Escherichia coli* in accordance with the standards set out in the Water Pollution (Bathing Water Standards and Objectives) Scheme 2021. These standards are the same as the 2006 EU Bathing Water Directive which is implemented in the UK and across Europe. Samples will be collected and analysed weekly at the Government Laboratory from every designated bathing water throughout the bathing water season (1 May – 18 September).

The location of the monitoring point will be where most bathers are expected and where samples can be collected in water at least one metre deep and 30 cm below the water's surface.

Only designated bathing waters will be monitored for compliance against the standards outlined in the Scheme.

6. Bathing Water Profiles

Bathing water profiles will be produced for each designated bathing water and will be available to view on the Government webpage (<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/environmental-protection-unit/bathing-water-quality/>).

All bathing water profiles will remain under review by the Department and will be updated as necessary.

Every bathing water profile must;

- Contain a description of the physical, geographical and hydrological characteristics of;
 - the bathing water; and
 - any other surface water in the catchment area of the bathing water quality where the surface water could be a source of pollution for the bathing water;
- Identify and assess the causes of pollution that might affect bathing water quality and pose a risk to bathers' health;
- Identify the location of the monitoring point.

Figure 1 is an example bathing water profile which has been developed. A site specific profile including a map in the top right will be produced for all designated sites.

About The Government

- Freedom of Information
 - Existing Access to Government Information
 - Government
 - ▼ Departments
 - Cabinet Office
 - Enterprise
 - Education, Sport and Culture
 - Environment, Food and Agriculture
 - DEFA Minister and Members
 - DEFA headquarters - Thie Slieau Whallian
 - Agriculture Directorate
 - Biosphere Vannin
 - Energy
 - Energy Projects
 - Environment Directorate
 - Biodiversity Policy Team
 - Air quality
 - Bathing Water Quality
 - Glossary of bathing water quality terms
 - Port Erin Bathing Water Profile**
 - River water quality
 - Energy from waste facility
 - WPU Waste Regulations
 - ODS/F-Gas Regulations
 - Environment, Safety and Health Directorate
 - Forestry, Amenity and Lands Directorate
 - Government Laboratory
 - Planning and Building Control
 - Policy, enforcement and legal searches
 - Protected sites
 - Wildlife and Biodiversity
 - UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man
- Health and Social Care
- Home Affairs
- Infrastructure
- Treasury
- Statutory Boards
- Offices
- Equality Act
- Data protection & GDPR on the Isle of Man
- Council of Ministers

Port Erin Bathing Water Profile

Current water quality classification is **Excellent**, based on weekly samples taken from 2017 to 2020.



Catchment Description

Port Erin beach is located on the south-west of the Isle of Man. The beach sits in a sheltered bay bordered by the tall cliffs of Bradda Head to the north.

There is a couple of watercourse which discharge into the bathing water with the main watercourse flowing across the beach into the sea. The surrounding land is urban and agricultural.

Sewage from the town is transferred to Meary Veg sewage treatment works via the IRIS system. There are a couple of overflows from Manx Utilities infrastructure within the bay but these do not regularly discharge so do not affect the bathing water quality.

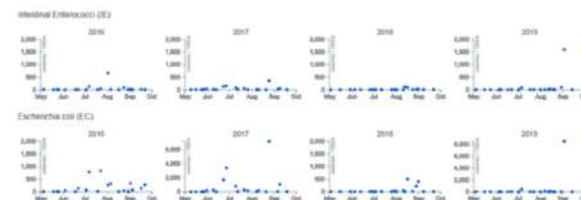
The beach has many facilities such as two swimming rafts, ice creams, cafes, kayak hire, a publishing of at the stone breakwater and the toilets. Access is very easy with nearby parking.

For more information see the [Visit Isle of Man website](#).

2019 classification	*** Excellent
2020 classification	*** Excellent
2021 classification	*** Excellent

Water Quality Results

See the help page for additional information on interpreting these charts.



Pollution Risk Forecasts

This bathing water is subject to short term pollution. Short term pollution is caused when heavy rainfall or high tides wash faecal material into the sea from livestock, sewage and urban drainage via rivers and streams. At this site the risk of encountering reduced water quality increases after rainfall and typically returns to normal after 1-3 days.

Investigations Statement

The Environmental Protection Unit is not currently investigating any pollution incidents within this catchment. To report any water pollution incidents; please call +44 1624 685885 or email environmentalprotection@gov.im

Pollution Management

It is the Environmental Protection Units role to drive improvement of water quality at bathing waters that are at risk of failing higher standards. It is natural for water to run off the land to the sea. Water quality at a bathing water is dependent upon the type and area of land (the catchment) draining to the water and the activities undertaken in that catchment.

Working with Manx Utilities

The urban area of Port Erin immediately behind the beach is served by a surface water and foul water network. Both networks are maintained by Manx Utilities with the foul waste being transported to Meary Veg via the IRIS network.

Working with Local Authorities

Heavy rain falling on pavements and roads often flows into surface water drains or highway drains, ending up in local rivers and ultimately the sea. The quality of bathing water may be adversely affected as a result of such events.

Share and Bookmark



Figure 1. Example of a bathing water profile; map detailing the sampling location etc. is to be included in the top right

7. Beach Signage

Beach signage will be provided to the public to enable bathers to make informed choices on where and when to bathe. Beach signage will be required at all designated bathing waters. Signs will be located in a prominent location, usually at the entry point to the beach. The information displayed will include the previous year's end of season assessment (excellent, good, moderate or poor), a general description of the site and the catchment.

Figure 2 shows an example bathing water sign which will be produced by the Department for all designated bathing waters.

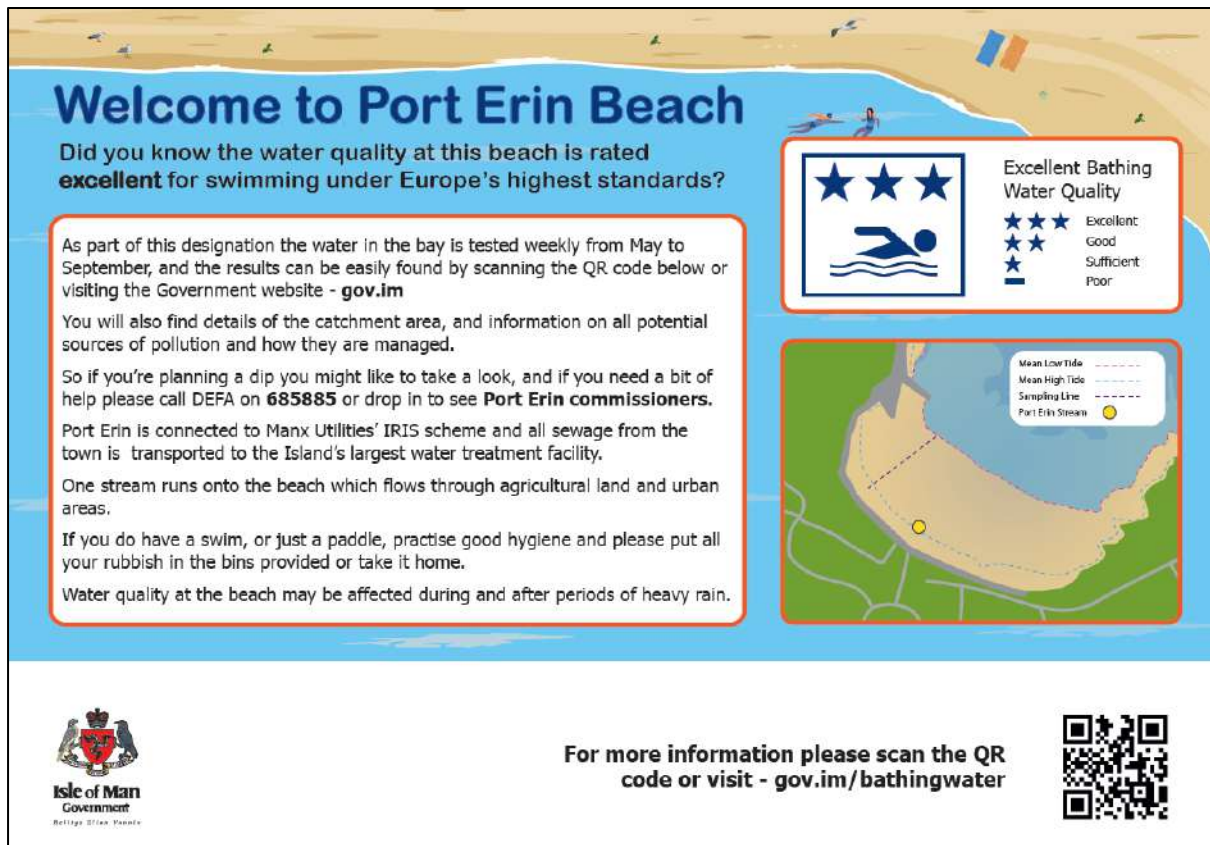


Figure 2. Example bathing water sign

8. Non-Compliance/Investigations

If the weekly results for a designated bathing water show an increase in bacteria concentration which is likely to lower the bathing water classification the Department will investigate to determine non-compliance or otherwise within the standards of the Scheme.

Investigations into any non-compliance will be undertaken by the DEFA Environmental Protection Unit using provisions in Section 2 and 3 of the Water Pollution Act 1993.

9. End of Season Assessment

At the end of the bathing season, for every bathing water the following will be completed by the Department;

- A set of bathing water quality data for that season;

- A bathing water quality assessment using the set of bathing water quality data compiled in relation to that season and the preceding three bathing seasons;
- A summary of the bathing water quality assessments prepared and made available on the Government webpage.
- Samples identified as an Short Term Pollution (STP) event will be determined in accordance with requirements set out in Section 9.1
- Define the monitoring calendar status for the subsequent season as detailed in Section 9.2.

9.1. Short Term Pollution (STP) Events

9.1.1. Selection of Short-Term Pollution (STP) Samples

Regarding sampling, a short term pollution (STP) event requires three types of samples;

- **Short term pollution sample** – a polluted sample with higher than usual values of either bacterial concentrations; its date of sampling is also a declaration of an STP start; this type of sample may be disregarded but **must** be reported.
- **Short term pollution end confirmation sample** – a sample with decreased bacteria concentration compared to an STP sample, used to declare an STP end; this type of sample is never to be a part of assessment dataset but **should** be reported.
- **Short term pollution replacement sample** – a sample required to replace a disregarded STP sample, taken seven days after an STP end; this type of sample is used in the assessment dataset if conditions for replacing the STP sample are met; otherwise, it is **not** part of the assessment dataset.

When composing the assessment dataset for each bathing water, samples related to a short term pollution event are processed as follows;

1. **Disregard STP-end confirmation samples;** this includes one sample reported on the last day of an STP, if there are more samples reported within the STP; if there are more samples reported on the last day, the last sample in the original delivery is disregarded as the STP-end confirmation.
2. **Create a list of all STPs in the last assessment period**
3. **Create list of STP samples;** this includes all samples within an STP that are not STP-end confirmation samples; sometimes, more than one such sample is reported within the STP event.
4. **Define whether replacement sample per STP event is available;** any sample reported within seven days after an STP end is treated as replacement sample; if there are more samples reported within seven days, the first (sorted by date and by rows in the original delivery) is used.
5. **Count and rank samples within STP;**
 - a. Rank only samples that have a replacement sample;
 - b. Count samples for assessment in the last assessment period, by bathing water;
 - c. Count STP samples by bathing water, in the last assessment period;
 - d. Count maximum reported STP samples by BW in any season of the last assessment period.

6. **Flag STP samples to be disregarded;**

- a. Where the count of STP samples with replacement in any season is **not more than one**, disregard all.
- b. Where the count of STP samples with replacement in any season is **more than one**, disregard a maximum of 15% of all samples in the last assessment period; this older STP samples are disregarded until 15% is reached.

9.2. Monitoring Calendar Status

Monitoring calendar status	
0	Not implemented
1	Implemented

Monitoring calendar requirements;

- One pre-season samples is to be taken shortly before the start of each bathing season
- No fewer than four samples are to be taken per bathing season.
- An interval between sampling dates never exceeds one month

9.3. Management Status

Management status	
1	Continuously monitored
2	Newly Identified
3	Quality changes
4	Monitoring gap

1 - Continuously Monitored

A bathing water should be continuously monitored as part of management measures. If monitored in any of the past four calendar years, the status **“1 – Continuously monitored”** is assigned to it. Since the status aims to describe management and circumstances of a bathing water over the longer term, the number of samples taken in each season is not taken into account for this status. This means that reporting less than the required number of samples per season still qualifies such bathing water for the status **“1 – Continuously monitored”**.

2 - Newly Identified

If a bathing water was newly identified in any of the years in the last assessment period, it is assigned the status **“2 – Newly Identified”**. Such status is assigned until the complete four year dataset is available (i.e. for three years after the first reporting). The status is independent of the

number of samples reported after a bathing water was identified and monitoring has started, which means that it can be assessed for water quality under independent conditions.

3 - Quality Changes

If a bathing water was subject to changes within the last assessment period, it is assigned the status “**3 – Quality Changes**”. Such status is assigned until the complete four year dataset of samples taken after changes took effect is available (i.e. for three years after the first reporting).

4 - Monitoring Gap

If the bathing water has not been monitored for at least one season in the last assessment period, it is assigned the status “**4 – Monitoring Gap**”. It can be assigned water quality status in parallel if enough samples are available in the period before and after the monitoring gap. No quality classification is made if no samples are reported for the most recent season.

10. Summary

Bathing water sampling at designated bathing beaches is undertaken by officers of the Environmental Protection Unit in the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture on a weekly or monthly basis between 1st May and 18th September which is defined as the bathing water season.

The samples are submitted to the Government Laboratory for analysis against the E.coli and intestinal enterococci standards outlined in the Water Pollution (Bathing Water Standards and Objectives) Scheme 2021. A classification will be produced at the end of every bathing season for all designated bathing waters. This classification will be shown on the bathing water profile and on the beach signage.

For all designated bathing waters an objective of ‘**Good**’ status has been set as the minimum for compliance under the Water Pollution (Bathing Water Standards and Objectives) Scheme 2021. Any non-compliance with this minimum standard will be investigated by officers from the Environmental Protection Unit and the designation of the bathing water will be reviewed as necessary.

11. Appendices

11.1. Appendix 1 – Bathing Water Application Form



Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmyltaght, Bae as Eirhys

Bathing Water Designation Application Form

Please write clearly in black ink and use BLOCK CAPITALS.

For Official Use Only	
File Ref:	

Name of Beach	
Local Authority	
Address	
Contact Number	
Email	

<p>Do you (the Local Authority) own the land? If the land is not owned by you, please provide evidence that the landowner has been contacted and given permission to submit this application.</p>	
---	--

Please indicate if the following facilities are within 1 mile of the bathing water

	Tick	Location
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Showers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cafes/restaurants	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Shops	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Recycling Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	

The role of a beach controller

The beach controller is required to control the land immediately adjacent to the bathing water which is normally used to access the bathing water from the landward side and where the bathing water is tidal, control of such land above the high tide mark. This includes ensuring all the required information is displayed within the vicinity of the designated bathing water. Controllers do not have any responsibility for water quality. Monitoring and investigations will be undertaken by DEFA during the bathing season (start of May to mid-September).

Additional Comments


Declaration

1. I/We apply for the designation of the bathing water mentioned above under the Water Pollution Act (1993) as described in this application and any attachments.
2. I/We confirm that the Government will be informed of any changes in information in this application which might be material to the designation of a bathing water.
3. I/We confirm that the local authority will accept the role of the 'beach controller' if the location mentioned above is designated as a bathing water.

Signed	Print Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Position at Local Authority	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

11.2. Appendix 2 – Bathing Water Application Guidance Notes



Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Rheynn Chymmyltaght, Bee as Eirynys

Thie Slieau Whallian
Foxdale Road
St Johns
Isle of Man
IM4 3AS
Tel: (01624) 685885
environmentalprotection@gov.im
www.gov.im/

Bathing Water Designation Guidance Notes

In December 2019 Tynwald approved the Bathing Water Strategy which was developed by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture and Manx Utilities.

The bathing water strategy proposes bathing waters in the Isle of Man be designated and monitored throughout the bathing season which has been agreed as the start of May to mid-September.

Local authorities are invited to apply for designation of bathing water status for beaches within their constituency. The application process requires information to be provided on the approximate number of beach users throughout the defined bathing season; the facilities within 1 mile of the designated bathing water and details of any community environmental awareness activities in place to increase the protection of water quality.

If a bathing water application is approved the Local Authority will have the responsibility of beach controller. If the land is not owned by the Local Authority, please indicate on the application form that the landowner has been contacted and has given permission for the application to be submitted to the Department.

The beach controller is required to control the land immediately adjacent to the bathing water which is normally used to access the bathing water from the landward side and where the bathing water is tidal, control of such land above the high tide mark. This includes ensuring all the required information is displayed within the vicinity of the designated bathing water. Controllers do not have any responsibility for water quality. Monitoring and investigations will be undertaken by DEFA during the bathing season (start of May to mid-September).

Completion of application form

On the application form please provide details of the following aspects to support the bathing water designation application.

- 1. Facilities at the Bathing Area**
 - Public toilets
 - Changing facilities
 - Parking
 - First aid services
 - Kiosks and shops
 - Access facilities
- 2. The approximate number of beach users during the bathing season**
- 3. The type of beach users e.g. swimmers, paddle boarders, kayakers**
- 4. Details of any charity events held at the bathing water e.g. Beach Buddies or Manx Wildlife Trust events**

Please note it is not compulsory for these facilities to be provided, however their presence provides evidence that there is infrastructure in place to support and promote bathing.

Submit your application

Please submit the completed beach designation application form to the address below for consideration;

Environmental Protection Unit
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Thie Slieau Whallian
Foxdale Road
St Johns
IM4 3AS

Or email it to environmentalprotection@gov.im

What happens next?

DEFA will consult with Manx Utilities to determine whether there is the necessary infrastructure in place to support a bathing water designation application. Necessary infrastructure includes appropriate treatment of foul water and modelling of any discharges into the area.

DEFA will make the final decision on designations.

The Local Authority will be notified by DEFA of the outcome of its beach designation application within 3 months and include details of the process thereafter.

If the designation application is not successful, the Local Authority will be informed of the reasons for this and advise on what is required in order to achieve successful designation.

If the site is designated

DEFA will develop a bathing water profile, beach signage and put plans in place to monitor and protect the bathing water.

A list of all designated bathing waters will be published on the Government webpage and monitoring data will be uploaded to the site on a weekly basis throughout the defined bathing season (start of May to mid-September).

Process and outline timescale

1. Application and evidence received by DEFA and acknowledged.
2. DEFA will assess the information provided by the Local Authority and discuss it with Manx Utilities to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place.
3. If more information is required to progress the application DEFA will contact the Local authorities and advise them of the information required in order to progress the application.
4. DEFA will make the final decision and will feedback any concerns or comments to the Local Authority to be addressed.

At any point in the process DEFA may ask the applicant to provide additional information.

END