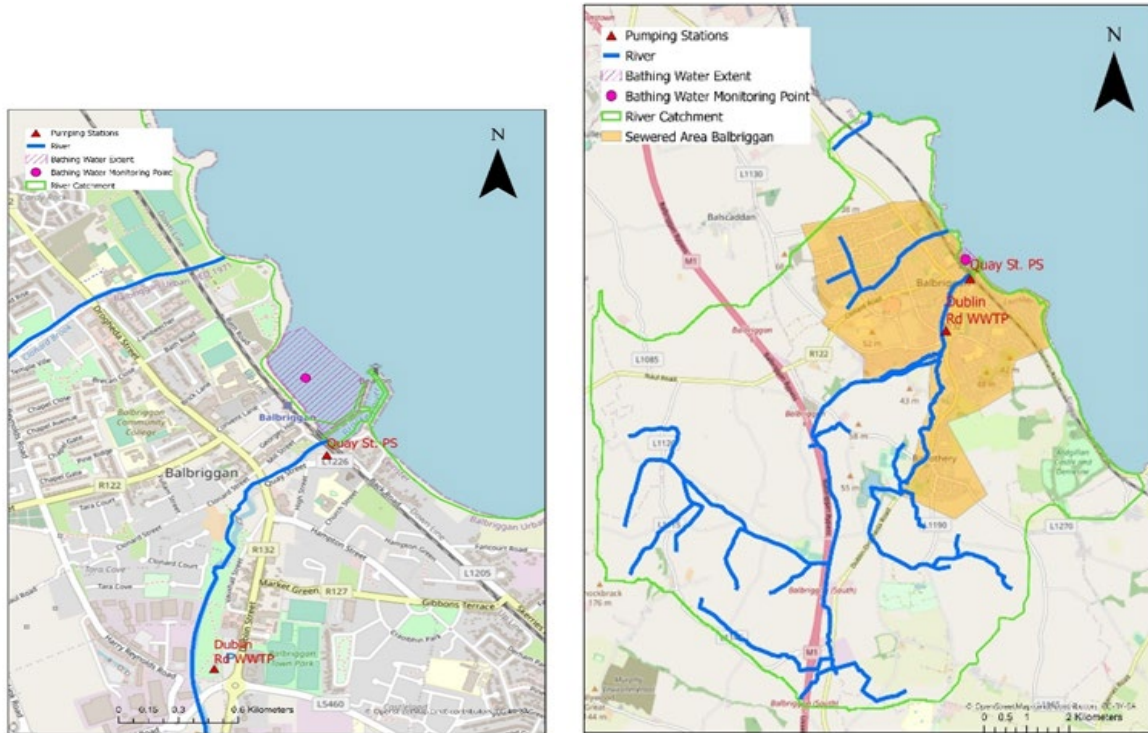



## Fingal County Council

### Bathing Water Management Plan for Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan 2024



**Map 1: Location and Extent of Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan bathing water**

Bathing Water Name	Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan
County	Dublin
River Basin District	Eastern River Basin District
Bathing Water ID (as per the WFD)	IEEABWC020_0000_0600
Year of Designation	1996
Location of Sampling Point incl. 6 digit grid ref	320340E, 264059N
	
Responsible Authority	Fingal County Council

Status	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
Draft	30/1/24	R. McGrath	J. Daly	
Final	31/1/24	R. McGrath	J. Daly	J. Daly

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION: EPA GUIDANCE ON MANAGEMENT OF POOR BATHING WATERS

Guidance was issued by the EPA to inform Fingal County Council of the

- *Legislative requirements to be undertaken following the classification of a bathing water as **Poor** and*
- *The management approach to be undertaken to improve the water quality of a Poor bathing water.*

The guidance advised that the management plan needs to address the following:

- a. **Local authority confirms** that there is a requirement for the bathing water to remain as identified bathing water.
- b. **Local authority informs** of its decision on the **type of seasonal bathing restriction**, i.e. advice against bathing or bathing prohibition, to be issued at the Poor bathing water for the following season. The local authority's decision on the type of seasonal bathing restriction to issue at the Poor bathing water should be based on ensuring adequate bather protection.
- c. The **cause(s) of pollution** affecting the bathing water are clearly identified. Where causes of pollution require further investigation provide relevant details and timelines for completion of this task.
- d. The **measures**, including interim actions, proposed to prevent, reduce or eliminate the causes of pollution. Details of the measures proposed, timelines and responsible authority will need to be provided.
- e. Local authority **strategy for communicating** to the public (in addition to notice at the bathing water) of the:
  - *causes and reasons for Poor classification of the bathing water,*
  - *measures being undertaken and planned to improve the water quality of the bathing water*
  - *implications for bather health*
  - *where/who to contact for more information.*

## 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF BATHING WATER

Front Strand Beach is located in Balbriggan town which is situated in Fingal, North County Dublin. The beach is approx. 35km from Dublin City Centre.

Front Strand Beach lies adjacent to Balbriggan Harbour. The Matt River (known locally as the River Bracken) discharges through the harbour, immediately south of the identified bathing area. Visitors access the beach by passing under an arch limestone and brick railway viaduct.

Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan is approximately 350m wide and 0.06 sq. km in area. It is a small flat sandy beach, sloping gently towards the sea. The adjacent harbour is a working fishing harbour. There is a rocky shore to the north of the identified beach.

A more detailed description of the bathing water and contributing catchment and pressures can be found in the Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan bathing water profile on the EPA's Beaches.ie website.

Fingal County Council confirms that Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan bathing water will remain as an Identified Bathing Water for 2024.

### 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTRIBUTING CATCHMENT

Land use in the contributing catchment area consists of industrial, agricultural, commercial and residential elements, including Balrothery village and Balbriggan town.

Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan is located in the Nanny-Delvin catchment area. The main surface water body is the River Bracken (Matt) and its catchment is 36 sq. km. in area. The contributing catchment for Balbriggan Front Strand Beach is limited to Balbriggan and Balrothery areas.

The River Bracken (Matt) is the main water body discharging adjacent to the bathing area. The river discharges to the harbour at the south end of Front Strand Beach. There is no surface water discharge directly to the beach.

### 4.0 BATHING WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT

#### 4.1 Bathing Water Regulations 2008

The Bathing Water Regulations 2008 specifies that two parameters Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococci are monitored at identified bathing waters throughout the bathing season. Laboratory reported bacterial counts from samples taken during the bathing season define water quality. Table 1 provides an explanation of water quality for each of these parameters.

Parameter	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Sufficient Quality
Escherichia coli (mpn/100ml)	250(*)	500(*)	500(**)
Intestinal enterococci (cfu/100ml)	100(*)	200(*)	185(**)

**Table 1 Water Quality as per Bathing Water Regulations**

(\*) Based upon a 95-percentile evaluation

(\*\*) Based upon a 90-percentile evaluation

The classification of water quality status for Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan for the period 2020-2023 is as follows:

2020 – Poor

2021 – Poor

2022 – Poor

2023 – Poor

All Season Advisory (Advice not to swim) for 2024 bathing season

#### 4.2 Bathing Water Quality 2020-2023

Bathing Water Quality data collected for Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan has been compared to the in-season single sample status assessment limits (Refer to Table 2).

These limits are for informational purposes throughout the bathing season only. The annual classification is based on a 4-year assessment (Refer to Section 4.1).

Parameter	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor
Intestinal enterococci	≤ 100	101 - 200	201 - 250	>250
Escherichia coli	≤250	251 - 500	501 - 1000	>1000

**Table 2 Single Sample Limits for In-Season Water Quality Status Assessment**

Bathing Water Quality data which has been collected for Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan and is compared to the single sample status assessment limits is presented in Table 2 (Source: [www.beaches.ie](http://www.beaches.ie)).

Date	Escherichia Coli	Intestinal Enterococci	Sample Status*	Quality
11/09/2023	98	7	Excellent	
28/08/2023	30	21	Excellent	
14/08/2023	160	63	Excellent	
31/07/2023	63	24	Excellent	
17/07/2023	108	21	Excellent	
11/07/2023	169	164	Good	
26/06/2023	185	103	Good	
12/06/2023	754	1530	Poor	
29/05/2023	86	15	Excellent	
05/09/2022	906	870	Poor	
22/08/2022	>24196	>2000	Poor	
08/08/2022	86	55	Excellent	
25/07/2022	1500	720	Poor	
11/07/2022	10	7	Excellent	
27/06/2022	364	49	Good	
13/06/2022	10	5	Excellent	
07/06/2022	20	12	Excellent	
24/05/2022	20	30	Excellent	
06/09/2021	20	5	Excellent	
31/08/2021	10	18	Excellent	
17/08/2021	30	13	Excellent	
03/08/2021	241	71	Excellent	
19/07/2021	345	64	Good	
05/07/2021	496	250	Sufficient	
21/06/2021	10	5	Excellent	
08/06/2021	10	4	Excellent	
24/05/2021	98	5	Excellent	
01/09/2020	121	12	Excellent	
25/08/2020	7701	2000	Poor	
11/08/2020	110	210	Sufficient	

27/07/2020	109	29	Excellent
13/07/2020	62	4	Excellent
29/06/2020	171	66	Excellent
15/06/2020	10	2	Excellent
02/06/2020	10	1	Excellent
25/05/2020	10	1	Excellent

**Table 3 Bathing Water Quality at Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan 2020-2023**

### 4.3 Bathing Water Assessment 2024

In December 2023 the EPA advised that the classification of water quality status for Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan for the 2024 bathing season is **Poor** (based on the assessment of 2020-2023 data).

### 4.4 Seasonal Bathing Restriction for 2024

During the period 2020 – 2023, there were a total of 36 samples analysed for bathing water quality. Of these, 5 were classified as 'Poor', 2 as 'Sufficient', 4 as 'Good' and the remaining 25 samples classified as 'Excellent'.

On the basis of the above results, the HSE has agreed with Fingal County Council that an Advisory Notice be placed at the beach for the duration of the 2024 bathing season as a measure to protect bathers' health.

## 5.0 REVIEW OF POLLUTION SOURCES

The main causes of pollution that may affect the bathing water are outlined in Table 4:

Pressure No	Pressure Source
1	Surface Water Streams within the beach catchment
2	Agricultural run-off
3	Foul water network and Pumpstations
4	Animal Fouling
5	Bird Colony

**Table 4 Summary of pressure sources within the catchment posing a quantifiable microbial risk**

#### 1. Surface water streams within the beach catchment

There are no direct surface water outfalls onto the beach. The surface water network (includes surface water run-off from urban areas) from the catchment shown in map fig. 1 (catchment shown in orange) discharges to the River Bracken (Matt River). The river discharges into Balbriggan Harbour, adjacent to the bathing water. Surface water outfalls exiting to this river could pose a risk to the bathing water quality due to misconnections into the surface water system. Animal/bird fouling, if present, may also contaminate waters. Risk is highest after heavy rainfall events. Storm overflows from the foul network via Quay Street Pumping Station discharge to the river however, a large storage facility mitigates against such discharges.

During the 2023 Bathing Season, Fingal County Council assigned significant resources to try and address storm water misconnections. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, a Prohibition Notice was erected at the beach due to a "poor" water quality result for a sample taken on the 12<sup>th</sup> June. No stormwater overflows were reported, and it was determined that the most likely cause of the water quality deterioration was due to contamination of urban surface waters discharging into the bathing water and to suspected impacts from animals/birds.

An immediate stormwater investigation commenced, led by the staff of Environment and Drainage Sections. This investigation resulted in the discovery of a significant misconnection at Mill Street, which discharges into the River Bracken, within 300 metres of the bathing area.

This misconnection was soon after removed from the stormwater network following a joint approach by Fingal County Council Drainage Department and the associated Management Company. Re-samples of the bathing water were taken on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June, both of which yielded a "good" result. A re-sample was organised for the 30<sup>th</sup> June which gave an "excellent" result. A scheduled sample was taken on the 11<sup>th</sup> July which yielded a "good" result and all individual water quality sample results at Balbriggan for the remainder of the bathing season were "excellent". Misconnection surveys will continue in 2024.

Following the "Poor" result in 2020 Fingal County Council began working in collaboration with UCD under the auspice of the Acclimatize Project, to carry out Microbial Source Tracking (MST) analysis. This type of analysis identifies the type of faecal bacterial sources i.e. E.Coli in the water body using faecal markers for Human, Gull, Dog, Horse and Ruminant. This collaboration continued in 2023. Samples were taken at the bathing water compliance point and at two sampling points along the River Bracken and sent to UCD for MST analysis. The first sampling point along the river is referred to as "Casino" and is approximately 160 metres from the outfall to the harbour. The second sampling point is referred to as "Skatepark" and is approximately 850 metres from the outfall to the harbour.

In relation to the bathing water samples, there is no substantial evidence from the 2023 results to suggest that gulls are having a significant effect on water quality. This is similar to the results of the 2022 analysis but unlike 2021, when 7 out of 9 samples tested positive for Gull biomarkers. 3 of the 8 samples taken during the 2023 bathing season detected the presence of contamination related to Dog, which again is similar to what was recorded in 2022 and a marked improvement from 2021, when 8 out of 9 samples tested positive for Dog biomarkers. Although an improvement has been made since 2021, dog fouling is still considered a pollution risk at the beach and measures to further reduce its presence will continue.

In relation to the two sampling points along the River Bracken, 7 of the 8 samples taken at both sampling points tested positive for ruminant biomarkers, i.e. 87.5 %. 6 of the 8 samples taken at both sampling points also tested positive for the Dog biomarker. The human marker was also found in 6 of the 8 samples taken at "Casino" but in just 3 of the samples taken at "Skatepark".

Since the close of the 2023 bathing season Fingal County Council has continued to carry out investigative monitoring of the River Bracken at several locations along the river and in other streams in the area, which drain to Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan. Samples were also taken in the Upper Bracken Catchment, in order to establish whether there was a rural E. Coli loading emanating in the upper reaches of the catchment. Results from the additional testing are fed back to both the Environment and Drainage Sections which greatly assists the Drainage team in deciding on which stormwater or foul water networks warrant further surveys and investigations. This information helps concentrate actions to address faecal contamination to the river, which is the main conduit to the bathing water. This monitoring will be on-going into 2024.

Fingal County Council has significantly increased the number of visual inspections and stream walks in the Balbriggan area to try and protect the bathing water quality and to also try and identify other potential pollution loads within the Bracken catchment.

A work programme will be prepared by the Local Authority Waters Programme Office to meet the restoration objective for the River Bracken (Matt) if this waterbody is included on the list of proposed Areas for Action in the final issue of the River Basin Management Plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle (2022-2027), awaiting final publication in 2024. Fingal County Council is also in discussions with LAWPRO with the view to conducting further joint surveys of the Bracken catchment in 2024.

## **2. Agricultural run-off**

Approximately 61% of the catchment has agricultural use which can be estimated to be associated with 59% tillage and 41% pasture. Farming practices containing faecal contamination sources such as run-off from slurry storage, landspreading of slurry to lands and animal feeding near streams may contribute to pollution of streams within the catchment (pasture and mixed farming primarily) and consequently may affect the River Bracken and ultimately the bathing water. The risk is highest during intense rainfall events. MST results of the bathing water showed positive for Ruminant markers on 2 sampling dates during the 2023 bathing season. The first date was the 17/07/2023. Very heavy rainfall was recorded in the 3 days leading up to the sample being taken. The second date was the 11/09/2023. Rainfall was recorded in the area within the previous 3 days of that sample date, however it was not particularly heavy.

Fingal County Council carried out 12 agricultural run-off surveys in the Balbriggan area in August 2023. In all cases land spreading practices on the inspected landbanks was found to be carried out in accordance with good agricultural practice regulations. Fingal County Council will continue to carry out agricultural inspections in this area throughout 2024.

## **3. Foul Sewer Network and Pumpstations**

The sewer network at Balbriggan, particularly the older parts of the town in the vicinity of the Harbour, were identified in Irish Water's National Sewer Rehabilitation Programme as needing repairs/rehabilitation. There are three pumpstations within the catchment. The closest pumpstation to the bathing area is Quay Street Pumpstation. This pumps directly to the Dublin Road pumpstation for delivery to Balbriggan WWTP at Skerries (70,000pe) ref. D0023-01. The Quay Street pumpstation conveys flows to this rising main via a storm tank (capacity of 1,500m<sup>3</sup>) and when the tank overflows this discharges into the River Bracken. The River Bracken flows into Balbriggan harbour adjacent to the southern end of the bathing water. In heavy rainfall conditions, the system is designed to discharge to the River Bracken. When the stormwater storage tank capacity is full, i.e. flow is greater than the pumped flow, the water discharges to the River Bracken in order to prevent flooding. In the case of pump station failure, storm water overflow alarms are activated and monitored, using telemetry. In the case of mechanical breakdown of the wastewater pump station, the alarm is sent to an operative, with the storm tank being used as an emergency holding tank.

In relation to the foul water network and pumpstations in the Balbriggan area, a Drainage Action Plan was prepared by Uisce Éireann. As part of the Drainage Action Plan flow surveys were conducted in 2023 and an upgrade of Quay Street Pumpstation is currently underway. Works are being carried out to increase the capacity of the pumpstation to cater for the additional future wastewater flows. The works are due to be completed circa 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. The design standard for this overflow will remain at three spills a bathing season. A portion of a foul sewer pipe has been identified to Uisce Éireann as present in the river channel for their investigation as a potential pollution source and to investigate possibly removing the pipe from the river.



A stormwater preventative maintenance cycle for 2023 is underway in the Fingal area. Several stormwater manhole covers and frames in Balbriggan have been replaced as part of this programme. Rehabilitation works on 3 manholes in the River Bracken are due to commence in Quarter 1 of 2024. This will involve the replacement of the manhole covers and frames on the 3 manholes. The manholes will also be re-benched and sealed to prevent leaks etc. Uisce Éireann investigations are on-going in the catchment to assess its performance under its Drainage Area Programme.

#### **4. Animal fouling at the beach**

Use of the beach by dogs and horses (at back beach) and subsequent fouling may pose a risk to bathing water quality. Dog fouling on paved areas and roads can also enter the river as run-off during wet weather. Dog litter not disposed of in a bin but buried in the sand can also affect water quality when re-suspended in water with the tide.

MST results of the bathing water were positive for Dog marker on 3 sampling dates during the 2023 bathing season and 3 sampling dates during 2022. Although this is a marked reduction from 2021 it is still a pressure that the Council are concerned with. One sample taken at the beach during 2023 tested positive for Horse marker and the marker was also found to be present in the River Bracken samples taken on the same day.

On the 9th of June 2023 Fingal County Council held a beach water quality awareness day on Front Strand Beach Balbriggan where Council Officials including Dog Wardens, a Litter Warden and an Environmental Awareness Officer met with the public and members of the Balbriggan Tidy Towns Officials, in an effort to make the public aware of the impact that dog fouling can have on bathing water quality.

Litter Wardens and Dog Wardens patrolled the beach daily during the 2023 bathing season. Up to the 28th of November 2023, 38 fines and 13 warning notices were issued on foot of litter wardens carrying out inspections in the Balbriggan area for 2023.

To further raise awareness on the impacts of dog fouling, Fingal County Council added the Acclimatize Awareness video to the Digi-display unit at the beach, which gives visual demonstrations of how to manage dogs and dog fouling in a manner that poses little risk to the bathing water.

#### **5. Bird Colony**

Balbriggan is a well-known area for urban breeding gulls. Any outdoor eating activities (picnics and takeaways) are known to attract bird populations however during beach inspections the birds, when sighted, were mostly congregating in the adjacent Balbriggan Harbour area rather than the bathing water. A Bird flu outbreak in 2023 resulted in dead birds being found on beaches in the Fingal area and this included Gulls.

### **6.0 PROPOSED MEASURES TO IMPROVE BATHING WATER QUALITY AT FRONT STRAND, BALBRIGGAN BEACH**

Details of the proposed measures, timelines and responsible authorities are outlined in Appendix 1. The programme of measures will be reviewed annually.



## 7.0 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Fingal County Council proposes to promote public awareness of the poor status of Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan by implementing those actions as outlined in Table 5. These have been devised in conjunction with the Council's Communications Department. The nominated point of contact for further information is: Executive Scientist, Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel and Sports Department, Water Pollution Control Section, Fingal County Council, phone no. 01-8905000.

Item	Description	Action by
1	Place the appropriate <b><i>EPA-standard poor bathing water template sign for seasonal bathing water restriction</i></b> with information regarding the causes of the pollution affecting the bathing water and measures taken on the beach notice board	HSE/Environment Division
2	Train lifeguards in the significance of water quality data and providing advice to the public on how to obtain further information	Operations Department and Environment Division
3	Provide information on bathing waters on the EPA's national website; beaches.ie and Fingal Website; <a href="http://www.fingal.ie">www.fingal.ie</a> and at digital sign at Front Beach.	Environment Division/Communications Department
4	Direct communications to the Elected Members through the 'Our Balbriggan' project and meetings with Community representatives	Environment Division/Operations Department/Economic Development
5	Use social media to circulate updated information and provide information on bathing water results and warning notices to registered users through the Fingal Alerts system	Environment Division/Communications Department
6	General Bathing Water Awareness Programme at the beach (including Dog Warden patrols – subject to resources available)	Environment Division/Communications Department

**Table 5 Communications Strategy**

<b>APPENDIX 1</b>			
<b>DETAILS OF PROPOSED MEASURES TO IMPROVE BATHING WATER QUALITY AT FRONT STRAND BEACH BALBRIGGAN 2024</b>			
<b>PRESSURE 1 AND 2</b>	<b>SURFACE WATER STREAMS WITHIN THE BEACH CATCHMENT and AGRICULTURAL RUN-OFF</b>		
<b>PRESSURE TYPE</b>	Contaminated Surface Water/Misconnections		
<b>Microbial Pollution Potential</b>	<b>HIGH</b>		
<b>Pressure Description</b>	Surface water contaminated by misconnections or farming practices discharging onto the beach could pose a risk to bathing water quality.		
	Combined storm overflows in the catchment may also contribute to pollution of streams within the catchment and consequently may affect the bathing water.		
<b>SHORT TERM ACTIONS</b>	<b>Agency responsible</b>	<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Target timeframe</b>
Sampling of bathing water/surface water outfalls to determine water quality and test for pathogen speciation (in particular River Bracken) where identification of the source of pathogens will be investigated, if service available from UCD (MST Analysis). Liaison with Uisce Éireann for possible sources of sewage if visible during field work.	Fingal County Council Environment Division	<b>R. McGrath/D. Byrne</b>	<b>Q1 -Q3/2024</b>
All reports of pollution to be investigated and progressed, including misconnections as appropriate. Fortnightly testing at the River Bracken which will include MST analysis by UCD, providing service available to FCC (Q1 and monthly testing Q2-Q4).	Fingal County Council Environment Division	<b>R. McGrath/D. Byrne</b>	<b>Q1-Q4/2024</b>
Uisce Éireann will continue to progress their 5-year Drainage Area Plan in 2024. The work will involve a review of the network to identify areas where stormwater connected to foul and combined sewers can be removed from the system. Identify misconnections (to foul sewer) and high levels of infiltration to the foul network. All existing stormwater overflows (SWO's) will be surveyed and any unknown SWO's identified will be investigated. The existing SWO performance will be analysed in terms of meeting licence criteria with all expected future performance due to increased growth in the catchment determined through this study. Surveys (e.g. flow) commenced in 2023.	Uisce Éireann	<b>Asset Delivery (various programmes and PM,s)</b>	<b>Stage 1 started in Q3 2022 Stage 4 completion is expected in 2026</b>

An upgrade of the Quay Street Pumping Station is currently underway. The works will upgrade the sewer network, stormwater overflow and overhaul the wastewater pump station, increasing its pass forward capacity ensuring the site will be capable of meeting the expected formula of future growth flows.	Uisce Éireann	eastmidlandswas tewaterteam@water.ie	Due for completion in Q1 2024
Manhole rehabilitation works; rehabilitation works on 3 manholes in the River Bracken is due to commence (Mid-February 2024). This will involve the replacement of the manhole covers and frames. The manholes will also be re-benched and sealed to prevent leaks.	Uisce Éireann	WW-Network Operations Department daorourk@water.ie	Due for completion in Q1 2024
Harbourmaster will continue to engage with boat owners to remind them of their obligations to prevent pollution from activities under the Sea Pollution Act 1991 and the Sea Pollution (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships) Regulations 2006.  In the event of oil spills to the environment in the Harbour there is an oil spill response contractor engaged (3-year contract).	Fingal County Council, Operations Department	Harbourmaster	Q1-Q4 2024  Fingal County Council have engaged the services of PWS to act as the oil spill responder in the Harbour.
Sampling of the material in the harbour was carried out 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2024, with a view to progressing the dredging of the harbour.	Fingal County Council, Operations Department	Senior Executive Engineer, Operations	Complete Q1 2024 - Awaiting results of sampling. Plan to be made once the nature of the material is confirmed and disposal options are examined.
A plan is in place to remove 2 wrecks located in the harbour, which have the potential to cause environmental pollution.	Fingal County Council, Operations Department	Senior Executive Engineer, Operations	Q1 2024

<b>PRESSURE 3</b>	<b>FOUL SEWER NETWORK AND PUMPING STATIONS</b>		
<b>PRESSURE TYPE</b>	Sewage		
<b>Microbial Pollution Potential</b>	<b>HIGH</b>		
<b>Pressure Description</b>	During overflow, effluent from Pump Station can discharge to the River Bracken and via Harbour to the Irish Sea.		
<b>SHORT TERM ACTIONS</b>	<b>Agency responsible</b>	<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Target timeframe</b>
The 2021 National Sewer Rehabilitation Programme was undertaken by Uisce Éireann and included identifying works for the rehabilitation/repair of pipework in Balbriggan including the Harbour area. These identified works are completed in order of priority on a multi annual rolling programme of work.	Uisce Éireann	Mark O'Duffy	Q1 2022-24 rolling programme of work
All pumping stations are on a telemetry system which allows for notification of and rapid response to overflows from the Pumping Stations. There are also frequent inspections and maintenance of equipment at the Pumping Stations. The operating standard is to the 3 spill criteria for Bathing Water season.	Uisce Éireann	Uisce Éireann	Q1-Q4/2024
<b>PRESSURE 4</b>	<b>ANIMAL FOULING AT THE BEACH</b>		
<b>PRESSURE TYPE</b>	Fouling		
<b>Microbial Pollution Potential</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>		
<b>Pressure Description</b>	Use of the beach by dog walkers and horse riders and subsequent fouling may pose a risk to bathing water quality.		
<b>SHORT TERM ACTIONS</b>	<b>Agency responsible</b>	<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Target timeframe</b>
A public awareness campaign regarding the dangers of animal fouling. This campaign will be similar to what was carried out in 2023.	Fingal County Council Environment Division/	M. Hand	Q2 2024
Dog Wardens and Litter Wardens will target the beach for inspections during the Bathing Season.	Fingal County Council Environment Division	M. Hand	Q2-Q3 2024
Duplicate sampling of bathing waters for pathogen speciation purposes (if service available from UCD as per the proposal for continuation of Acclimatize Project).	Fingal County Council Environment Division	R. McGrath	On going
The digital sign on the beach will continue to be used for raising awareness on animal fouling. The content being generated to run at the beach will be agreed with Communications Department.	Fingal County Council Environment Division/Communications	R. McGrath	Q1-Q4 2024
<b>PRESSURE 5</b>	<b>BIRD COLONY</b>		

<b>PRESSURE TYPE</b>	Fouling		
<b>Microbial Pollution Potential</b>	<b>LOW</b>		
<b>Pressure Description</b>	Impact of gull population may pose a risk to bathing water quality.		
<b>SHORT TERM ACTIONS</b>	<b>Agency responsible</b>	<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Target timeframe</b>
A Seagull Information Leaflet on our website has information for the management of food waste relating to controlling bird nuisance. The website version will be kept updated with this information during 2024.	Fingal County Council Environment Division	<b>J. Daly</b>	<b>Q1-Q4 2024</b>