

*Works will improve the current performance of the plant and to help meet needs of growing population*

Irish Water is continuing to carry out operational upgrade works at the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant. Works were due to be completed by the Monday 21 November but due to intermittent heavy rainfall the period of work has been extended to the Monday 28 November. Irish Water apologises for any inconvenience caused.

The works at the Ringsend Plant will improve the current performance of the plant and help meet the needs of the growing population. These are interim measures being undertaken in advance of Irish Water progressing with a project to seek planning permission to upgrade the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Ringsend plant is currently operating over the capacity it was designed for. Irish Water intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála in 2017 for permission to upgrade and expand the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant.[\[1\]](#) The project to upgrade to the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant is vital to provide future capacity at the plant and to ensure that the Greater Dublin Area has appropriate wastewater treatment facilities to enable continued social and economic development.

The works being undertaken now will ensure that the treatment plant continues to perform well while Irish Water progresses that application.

The improvement works will be carried out at a pumping station within the plant. These works will enable improved control of the wastewater flows to the treatment tanks in the plant thereby improving final effluent quality.

To undertake the works, an overflow of preliminary treated wastewater was planned to be discharged into the sea for a short duration on four days from Monday, 7 November to Monday the 21 November 2016. Due to intermittent heavy rainfall it was not possible to complete the planned works entirely. There will be two further shutdowns planned during the week of Monday 21 November to Monday 28 of November.

The discharges are essential to divert the flow from the inlet works at the plant to allow staff to safely access a deep well pumping station within the plant.

Irish Water has undertaken a detailed assessment of the required works and reviewed a variety of options to facilitate these works. The overflow to facilitate the works will be screened, and will undergo preliminary treatment to minimise the impact of the works on the public and the environment.

Precautionary 'Do not swim' notifications will remain at the bathing areas at Dollymount Strand, Merrion Strand, Sandymount Beach, Shelleybanks and Half Moon while the work is taking place. These essential works have been delayed until after the official bathing season to reduce the disruption to the public who carryout water sports or swim at these locations.

Details of the planned overflows have been communicated to the relevant stakeholders, clubs and other users who carry out recreational activity at Dollymount Strand, Merrion Strand, Sandymount Beach, Shelley banks and the Half Moon bathing area. This information has also been issued on the Irish Water website and social media channels and electronic signs have been updated at Dollymount Strand and Sandymount Beach.

Irish Water apologises for any inconvenience that this planned short term disruption may cause to the bathers and users of Dollymount Strand, Merrion Strand, Sandymount Beach, Shelley banks and the Half Moon bathing area.