

Dear general election candidate,

We are writing to you today to express our community's complete frustration with the discharge of raw sewage directly onto Sandymount Beach approximately 8 – 12 times per year. We at SAMRA have been lobbying Dublin City Council, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Uisce Eireann for years to keep our beaches clean, but heavy rainfall continues to flush faeces, used condoms, and sanitary products onto our invaluable public amenity.

We now have no choice but to make this a campaign issue. If a private company was regularly polluting a UNESCO Biosphere with biohazardous waste, it would be closed down immediately. However, our outreach to the relevant groups has only led to meagre signage at the offending site and finger-pointing between the three groups. And the health of beachgoers is being put at risk all the while.

We've had enough. Since you are looking to represent our interests in the Dáil, we'll be expecting you on the doors. When you come to ask for the votes of us and our 5,000 neighbours, you can expect to be asked, 'What are you going to do to end the regular dumping of raw sewage onto Sandymount Beach?' We will be circulating the facts of the issue, as well as the empty statements from DCC, the EPA, and Uisce Eireann, so they, like us, will expect concrete promises from you that must be fulfilled if you are elected.

We are initiating this campaign as we are at our wit's end. Uisce Eireann is knowingly allowed to use Sandymount Beach as a sewage dump year after year with no regard for the health risks for beachgoers. Our beach is integral to the health of the only UNESCO Biosphere adjacent to a national capital, and we say that it's been treated as South Dublin's toilet for far too long. It's a disgrace.

What do we want? The residents of Sandymount and Merrion want a date when construction of the remedial engineering works will begin and the sewage dumping will stop. We are not interested in excuses around plans about plans, inter agency engagements, and bureaucratic processes. Everyone has known about this problem for years. We want action.

We would welcome the influence that you can bring to bear on securing this commencement date. We will promptly notify SAMRA members and our non-member neighbours alike of what you have achieved, so that when they go to the polls, they will know exactly who will fight to clean up Sandymount Beach, and who won't.

Sincerely,



Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association