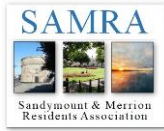


SAMRA  
Sandymount  
Dublin



CEO Dublin City Council: Owen Keegan  
CEO UISCE EIREANN: Niall Gleeson  
CEO Environmental Protection Agency: Dr Eimear Cotter

14<sup>th</sup> May 2023

*By email*

## **Discharge of Sewage and Waste onto Sandymount Beach**

Dear Sirs/Madam,

I write to you jointly with regard to the ongoing incidence of discharge of raw sewage onto Sandymount and Merrion Beach at the St Alban's/Strand Road location.

There are circa 10-12 events per year and each incident results in the release of large volumes of disgusting raw sewage, creating a public health hazard.

The most recent incident to bring to your attention was Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The release was captured on video and featured on RTE primetime national news and across local radio stations. This is also currently a live complaint to UISCE EIREANN. Ref to <https://www.samra.ie/news> for access to videos.

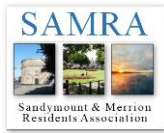
These events are compounded by a lack of signage and any form of clean-up – leaving the hundreds of users who walk the beach daily with children and pets - exposed to the risk of contraction of disease, associated with direct contamination from sewage fluids, condoms, sanitary waste and faeces, etc – all of which are clearly visible in the video of the release.

This has also been previously reported to you formally (EPA on-line system) 03/11/2022 and was closed out Ref Letter: 0644645458, dated 16/11/2022 by UISCE EIREANN. That report was supported with annotated digital photographic evidence of similar events dating back to 09/07/2021. This clearly showed the effects of beach erosion and the increasing scale and effect of the releases.

We have also written to the CEO of DCC on several occasions, most recently 24/03/2022.

We have established :

- Technical and operational responsibility for the Sewage System is with UISCE EIREANN who also has responsibility for “on-land” clean ups - ONLY IF THEY OCCUR



- Dublin City Council accepts responsibility for clean-up ABOVE the High-Water line ONLY and for “On-beach” on a DISCRETIONARY basis only - as and when requested by UISCE EIREANN

At this point :

- there is no evidence of ANY system engineering resolution being developed by UISCE EIREANN for this site
- there is NO notification of hazard or deployment of signage by either UISCE EIREANN or DCC.
- there is NO automatic triggering of clean-up activity by UISCE EIREANN

As a result of this combined inaction by yourselves the net result is that this public health hazard is continuing unchecked and there is a high risk of individuals contracting disease.

*Note: For the event 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 which remains on the beach today. With warm weather and reducing tides it is expected that this risk will remain for another 10 days.*

**The conclusion which can be reached BY THIS STATUS is that you have collectively become normalized to this situation, and this has become a routine accepted outcome.**

As a Residents Association we find this to be absolutely unacceptable and are now seeking that you undertake urgent action to make sure this disgraceful occurrence does not happen again. There is no excuse that will be acceptable for this matter not being addressed with the utmost urgency. I would appreciate if you could advise by return the actions that you are planning to take to address this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Turner', is written over a horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

**David Turner, Chairperson**

**Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association**

Cc : SAMRA Committee