



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry for Environment and Tourism
Joshua Hassan House
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Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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BATHING IS PERMITTED FROM WESTERN BEACH

The Government informs the public that they should not be alarmed with some element of contamination at Western Beach. The Environmental Agency samples bathing waters from all our beaches to ensure that these meet the quality requirements stipulated in the Bathing Water Directive. The sampling regime consists of the taking of weekly samples from all our beaches from the 9th April to 9th October every year. This sampling regime is more onerous in that the Directive requires that samples be taken fortnightly.

All our bathing waters comply with the parametric values stipulated in this Directive. However, recent samples from Western Beach have revealed that on some days there has been deterioration in the parametric values for micro-organisms associated with faecal contamination. One day in mid August (on the 17th August) the parametric values for these organisms exceeded those stipulated in the Directive.

When this contamination was detected the Environmental Agency immediately increased the number and frequency of samples taken at Western Beach.

The latest sample results are still above the usual levels recorded in the past at Western Beach but nevertheless show that there has been an improvement and are in compliance with the Directive.

The Environmental Agency is working in conjunction with the Department of the Environment are closely monitoring the situation and are carrying out detailed investigations to ascertain the cause of this unexpected contamination.

The results and interpretation of the monitoring for all Gibraltar beaches and the daily results for Western Beach can be viewed at the Environmental Agency website www.environmental-agency.gi.

The public are advised that bathing is permitted from Western Beach.