

**Question for written answer E-002080/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Frances Fitzgerald (PPE)

Subject: EU Bathing Water Directive 2006

This question relates to the testing of bathing water in Dublin Bay and the Irish Government's implementation of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (the Directive) by way of Statutory Instrument No 79/2008 – Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008.

The Directive currently requires that testing obligations with respect to bathing water be fulfilled during the bathing season. The designated bathing water season in Ireland runs from 1 June to 15 September.

1. Given that trends indicate that a significant amount bathing now takes place in Dublin Bay outside of the designated bathing season, such that the cumulative number may be described as a 'large number' according to the definition of bathing water under the Directive, should testing instead be carried out on a 12-month basis?
2. Could the Commission provide any further information on the testing process and whether testing outside the designated period would increase the potential for adverse results and, as a result, might unnecessarily put summertime designations in jeopardy?

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