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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government  
Consultation – summary of response

## Bathing Water Review in Wales 2019

Identification of Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias, Conwy as a bathing water

March 2019

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

Water Branch  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ  
Email: [water@gov.wales](mailto:water@gov.wales)  
[www.wales.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.wales.gov.uk/consultation)

# Introduction

## Overview

Bathing waters are of value both for the recreational opportunities they provide to the people of Wales and for tourism. They also provide a strong indicator of the overall health of Wales' coastal zones and inland water bodies.

The Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) requires the identification of bathing waters each year and the monitoring of water quality at these sites throughout the bathing season. In Wales the bathing season runs from 15 May to 30 September. There are currently 104 identified bathing waters in Wales.

The Directive aims to protect human health by:

- identifying popular bathing waters
- monitoring their water quality
- informing bathers about water quality
- achieving good water quality at all designated sites over time.

## Purpose of the Consultation

The aim of the consultation was to seek views about the proposal to identify Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias Beach as a designated bathing water from 2019.

The request was received from Conwy County Borough Council.

## Consultation period and distribution

The consultation ran for a period of 6 weeks from 18 February and closed on 1 March 2019. The consultation was published on the Welsh Government website and sent to a broad range of stakeholders.

## Responses received

A total of 8 responses to the consultation were received. Respondents are listed at Annex A of this document.

All responses received supported the proposal to identify Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias as a designated bathing water from the 2019 bathing season.

One respondent indicated they thought the proposal would encourage more visitors to the region and bay and seaside awards such as the Blue Flag would give visitors assurances that the water is suitable for swimming.

Another respondent stated that they fully supported the designation of the beach as a regular swimmer in the area it would enable them to make informed decisions on when it was safe to swim.

There was acknowledgment of the benefits which the removal of a sewer at the site had brought and that the designation of the beach was an excellent idea.

It was identified that there is a long history of Colwyn Bay being used by a large number of bathers along the wide stretch of safe, accessible beach. The proposed bathing water quality sampling point will also provide good representation of the water quality at Porth Eirias for the protection of public health.

Respondent identified the site has excellent adjacent facilities and that the provided usage data indicates a strong argument for the inclusion of this location as a designated bathing water.

A question was raised about the sand being washed away at the beach and what was being done to put this right?

Response to question: All shorelines are subject to coastal processes which can result in the raising and lowering of beach levels over time. The beach nourishment works at Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias included the construction of a rock groyne, which will help to stabilise the beach in its current form.

Information was also requested and provided by Natural Resources Wales, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and Keep Wales Tidy as part of the consultation process.

### **Response to comments received about the identification of Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias Beach as a bathing water**

Following full consideration of all responses received and information and evidence provided, the Welsh Ministers are satisfied that Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias Beach has met the criteria as set out in regulation 3(2) of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013. Therefore, the Welsh Ministers have taken the decision to identify the beach as a bathing water from the 2019 bathing season.

When reaching a decision on identifying a bathing water the main consideration is numbers of bathers. However, we have not set a formal numerical figure, as all bathing waters are different and one figure may not be suitable for all sites. We look for evidence of numbers of swimmers, people paddling at the water's edge and people on the beach. We also look at past trends, any infrastructure or facilities provided or measures taken to promote bathing as set out in the Bathing Water Regulations 2013.

Anyone can recommend a surface water area used for bathing for identification as a bathing water. In the first instance, we recommend approaching the Local Authority as they will often hold helpful information about a beach in their area and will be responsible for meeting various requirements under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 in the event of the water being designated as a bathing water.

### **Monitoring of designated bathing waters**

Natural Resources Wales has responsibility for monitoring bathing water quality at designated bathing water sites in Wales. Where a surface water is designated as a bathing water, Natural Resources Wales is required to produce a detailed profile and monitoring programme, as it does for each identified bathing water in Wales. Bathing water profiles include a description of the bathing water and surrounding area, any rivers and streams feeding into each site and details about how they will manage pollution at the site. These profiles also set out bathing water quality compliance results and explain the work they are undertaking with other partners to identify where water quality improvements are needed.

This includes working with water companies, agriculture sector and Local Authorities to identify problems that could affect bathing water quality.

In addition, every Local Authority which controls an identified bathing water must ensure that detailed information about the bathing water is available in an easily accessible place in the near vicinity of the bathing water during the bathing season (15 May to 30 September).

Local Authorities are also required to display further information in the form of water quality classification symbols during the bathing season at each identified bathing water.

### **De- identification of bathing waters**

No requests were received for removal of identified bathing waters in Wales for the 2019 bathing season.

### **Next Steps**

We will advise Natural Resources Wales of the Welsh Ministers' decision to identify Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias Beach as a designated bathing water and ask them to prepare a bathing water profile and to keep the profile under review.

The Welsh Government would like to thank those who responded to the consultation on the 'Review of Bathing Waters in Wales 2019'.

## **Annex A**

### **List of respondents**

Bay of Colwyn Town Council

Environment, Roads & Facilities, Conwy Borough Council

Water Health Partnership for Wales – Bathing Water Group

Responses received from members of the public (5)