

Media Release

Re: Discharge of Sewage into Peel and Laxey Bays

Please see attached FOI reply to Mr Kermode's request for information with regard to the discharge of raw sewage into Peel and Laxey Bays.

Peel

The FOI reply reveals that approximately **2,900 cubic metres** (2.9 million litres) of raw human sewage is being pumped into Peel Bay each day.

An Olympic sized swimming pool has a capacity of 2,500 cubic metres.

Therefore, a quantity of untreated human sewage equivalent to slightly more than the size of an *Olympic swimming pool* is being discharged into the bay every day, 365 days a year.

Laxey

More alarmingly, the FOI reply indicates that up to 4,000 cubic metres (4 million litres) of raw sewage a day is being pumped into Laxey Bay.

Potential Legal Action

Such shockingly high levels of preventable human pollution obviously raises serious ecological and human health concerns. We have also recently been notified by persons expressing concern about pet dogs becoming sick with an apparent mysterious illness after walking on Peel beach during January 2022.

We can now advise that civil legal action is being actively considered by a number of potential litigants against Manx Utilities and the Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture including under the Water Pollution Act 1993 and for negligence and breach of international environmental obligations.

We refer to the English Criminal Court case in July 2021 where **Southern Water** was fined £90 million for dumping billions of litres of raw sewage into the sea. Mr Justice Jeremy Johnson stated at sentencing, *"These offences show a shocking wholesale disregard for the environment, for precious and delicate eco systems and coastlines, for human health, and for fisheries and other legitimate businesses that operate in the coastal waters"*.

The relentless and disgusting daily discharge into Peel and Laxey Bays of vast amounts of raw sewage containing excrement, significant human viruses (including Covid-19), dangerous household chemicals and traces of medicine is anachronistic and poses a completely unacceptable risk of harm and infection to bathers, particularly children.

Blue Planet

It appears that the IOM authorities are prepared to turn a blind eye to the contamination of shellfish including queenies and damage to Irish Sea bio-diversity such as Basking sharks. The Manx Government's shameful complacency on this important public health and environmental issue is plainly at odds with the Island's UNESCO Biosphere status and is nothing short of a national disgrace.