

Water Safety Ireland
Water Safety Guidance Note Number 2:
Management of Designated Bathing Area's (DBA)

Name of Working Group	Beach Safety Report Review Working Group
Members	John Leech, Michael Cuddihy, Tom Doyle , Clair McGrath, Paddy Drumgoole, Enda Hanniffy
Status	Approved by WSI Council: 5th February 2020 Approved by CCMA: 20th August 2020
Approval Date	20th August 2020
Effective Date	20th August 2020

Designated Bathing Area (DBA)

**A designated bathing area (DBA) is a bathing area as defined in the Bathing Waters Directive*

1. Risk Assessment of DBA's

1.1 DBA's to be risk assessed:

- At least once every five years
- At least once every three years for Blue Flag beaches
- Following a serious incident within the DBA

1.2 All risk assessment requests should be directed to the Chief Executive of Water Safety Ireland (WSI). The approved risk assessment report should be issued with the minimum of delay after the date of completion and review of the risk assessment.

1.3 WSI shall ensure that any DBA risk assessment carried out is accredited by ILSE.

1.4 The ILSE accredited Risk Assessor, shall be supplied with all necessary documentation and maps in relation to the DBA. The WSDO may accompany the risk assessor if considered necessary.

1.5 Local Authorities shall implement the recommendations of a DBA risk assessment report within a reasonable period of time.

1.6 Where it considers it necessary, WSI may itself may undertake a risk assessment in the interests of public safety and bring its findings to the notice of the appropriate authorities.

2. Inspection and maintenance of the Public Rescue Equipment (Ringbuoys) within the DBA

2.1 Public rescue equipment sited within the DBA shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with the Public Rescue Equipment WSI Guidance Note No.1.

3. DBA Emergency Access & Egress

3.1 Where required by the risk assessment, DBA to have clearly marked access and egress routes.

4. Zoning within the DBA

4.1 Where required by the risk assessment, DBA to be zoned to ensure the safety of all users.

5. Lifeguarding within the DBA

5.1 Where required by the risk assessment, DBA to be lifeguarded.

5.2 Lifeguards should be employed by the Local Authority to lifeguard the DBA from June to September, dependent on local arrangements or where reasonable practicable.

5.3 Lifeguards should be qualified in accordance with International Lifesaving Federation standards and be provided with standard lifeguard uniform and equipment as recommended in risk assessment report and Water Safety Ireland guidelines.

6. Water Safety Signage within the DBA

6.1 Where required by the risk assessment, water safety signage and safety information boards shall be sited and maintained within the DBA. All signage shall comply with ISO and An Commissioner Teanga regulations in regard to the use of text (Gaelige first followed by English text).