Raw Sewage

What is the problem?

- 34 towns and villages are not connected to waste water treatment plants in 2020.
- These areas release enough raw sewage into our seas and rivers every day to fill 4 Olympic size swimming pools.

Why does this matter?

- Raw sewage can pollute our environment and pose a health risk.
- Health: Bacteria, viruses and parasites in raw sewage can make people ill.
- Environment: Sewage can harm aquatic ecosystems by depleting oxygen levels in the water and releasing nutrients that lead to excessive growth of algae and plants.

What is being done?

- The number of areas discharging raw sewage has reduced from 50 in 2014 following the connection of 16 towns and villages to treatment plants.
- A further 22 areas are due to be connected to treatment by the end of 2024.

What are the challenges?

- Frequent delays and changes to plans to provide treatment at many areas are prolonging risks to the environment and public health.
- 10 towns and villages are not scheduled to receive treatment plants until 2025.
- A further 2 areas are likely to continue discharging raw sewage until 2027.