**Raw Sewage**

**What is the problem?**

32 towns and villages are not connected to waste water treatment plants in mid-2022.

These areas release enough raw sewage into our seas and rivers every day to fill 3 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 18 towns and villages to treatment plants.

A further 19 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.

11 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.