

Reply to Ref:DMCL2803942/21

Re: Items raised at North Central Area Committee Meeting held on 17th May 2021.

Water Safety Ireland always encourages people to swim in Designated bathing areas (DBA's)

As the Water Safety Officer for Dublin City, we have one DBA Dollymount Beach. Which is under the direct management and supervision of Dublin City Council Parks Department. I liaise closely with the Parks Lifeguard supervisor and trainer. He is stationed all year round in Dollymount Beach.

I liaise with the Lifeguard supervisor to make sure that there are adequate amounts of Lifeguards provided during the bathing season to cater for all the users of that DBA.

Five Lifeguards are provided 7 days a week during the bathing season, which starts from the June bank holiday weekend. They work from 11.30am-6.30pm. They finish up on the 3rd weekend in September. A beach risk assessment was done on Dollymount last year by Water Safety Ireland and we implemented any recommendations from that report.

The Lifeguards are equipped with all the necessary lifesaving equipment, Defibrillators, rescue buoys, quad bikes, boats and surf boards and are available to give water safety advice on potential dangers and hazards.

I arrange for the erection of ring buoys, safety equipment and water safety signage and the carrying out of spot checks with a view to replacement as necessary. I also arrange for water safety reports on beaches and other aquatic locations in the interest of safety. The designation of new bathing areas is a statutory process under the bathing water directive transposed into legislation in 2008. At present I am in the process of sourcing a contractor to tidy up the Bull wall shelters, install showers and sourcing marker buoys for open water swimmers. I am very willing to liaise or meet with any group to discuss improving our bathing area or waterways.

If you have any questions please contact me

Yours sincerely

Gerard Carty