Microbiological exceedances that should be notified to the HSE are laid out in Table 1.

Table 1: Action levels in response to microbiological sample results

| *Escherichia coli* | Intestinal enterococci | Recommended Action * |
|---|---|---|
| > 2,000 E.coli | OR > 250 I.E. | Issue of a Bathing Prohibition Notice (Appendix 8) See note 1 |
| ≥1,000 - ≤2000 E.coli | AND ≥ 200 I.E. | Issue of a Bathing Prohibition Notice (Appendix 8) See note 1 |
| ≥1,000 - ≤2000 E.coli | BUT < 200 I.E. | Issue of a Bathing Advisory Notice (Appendix 7) and re-sample immediately See note 1<br>If re-sample is still ≥ 1000 E.coli - Issue of a Bathing Prohibition Notice (Appendix 8) |
| ≥500 - <1,000 E.coli | OR ≥100 - ≤250 I.E. | Re-sample and monitor situation. Decision based on evidence available/details of pollution event.<br>If re-sample is ≥ 1000 E.coli - Issue of a Bathing Prohibition Notice (Appendix 8) |
| Any gross malfunction or leakage of the sewerage system or visual reports of sewage | | Issue of a Bathing Prohibition Notice (until the status of the bathing water quality can be verified). |

**Note 1:** There are two circumstances where the Local Authority may consider taking a precautionary approach even when the action levels have not been breached.

(i) Where the microbiological result is greater than 90% of the action level, a risk assessment should be carried out which may in some circumstances suggest taking a precautionary approach with the issue of the appropriate bathing water notice.

(ii) Where the microbiological result is greatly in excess of the normal background levels (see Appendix 13) for that bathing area, this circumstance may point to a pollution event in the vicinity. A risk assessment should be carried out which may suggest taking a precautionary approach with the issue of the appropriate bathing water notice.

* *Based on risk assessment, taking into account the beach profile, previous sampling history, probable source of contamination, evidence of human illness etc.*

For criteria for lifting prohibition notices, please see Section 4.5. Please also refer to Section 4.6 in relation to bathing waters that have a Seasonal Bathing Prohibition Notice in place