Hedges, Kate (Defra)

From: bathingwater (WQ)
Sent: 07 March 2014 15:00
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Bathing Beach De-designation

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email. There will be an opportunity to comment on the proposal to dedesignate Walpole Bay because we'll hold a public consultation before making a decision. The document will be available on the consultations section of www.gov.uk and the consultation will begin within the next fortnight.

Kind regards,

Kate

Kate Hedges | Policy Adviser | Bathing and Shellfish Waters | Water Availability and Quality I **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**
Direct line: 020 7238 5347 | Email: kate.hedges@defra.gsi.gov.uk | Address: 3D/E Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 March 2014 19:53
To: bathingwater (WQ)
Subject: Re: Bathing Beach De-designation

Dear Kate,

Thank you for this information - apologies for the delayed response.

In this case, the local council have conducted a public consultation, regarding applying to DEFRA for de-listing. They have not published the results, but have applied to DEFRA regardless. One of their reasons for wanting to de-designate is because of the new EU water quality issues, and this beach not having the required 4 years of results.

There was a significant response from local users against the idea of de-designation.

Do the public have the chance to comment once a submission for de-designation is made to DEFRA?

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

On Tuesday, January 28, 2014, bathingwater (WQ) <bathingwater@defra.gsi.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your enquiry about dedesignation of bathing waters.

I have attached a link to our guidance on the evidence that we need to remove a site from the list of bathing waters. The main criterion for a beach or lake to be designated as a bathing water is that it is used by a large number of bathers and this is defined in the Bathing Water Directive as *"..a number that the competent authority considers to be large having regard, in particular, to past trends or to any infrastructure or facilities provided, or other measures taken, to promote bathing."* (Directive 2006/7/EC, Article 2.4). We haven't set a minimum number of bathers because one number would not be suitable for all types of beaches in all areas of the country.

We consider each application for dedesignation individually, although if the beach has significantly lower usage than neighbouring beaches we would take this into account. If facilities have been withdrawn recently we would ask the local authority or beach owner to explain the reason for their removal.

Kind regards,

Kate Hedges

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designation-and-de-designation-of-bathing-waters

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 January 2014 15:13
To: bathingwater (WQ)
Subject: Bathing Beach De-designation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Could you clarify a couple of points regarding de-designation?

I understand the controller (i.e. local authority) has to show that the numbers of bathers using the area has declined or is very low, but in relation to what? What is the threshold and what is it based on?

And does it make a difference if, for example, the beach in question is in an area with a number of other beaches that are more high profile, have more facilities, and are more heavily promoted by the local authority? i.e if bather numbers at one area are lower than in the past, but all facilities have been removed by the controller (public toilets, changing facilities, lifeguards, seating etc) then can this reduction in usage be used to argue for de-designation?

Any additional information would be appreciated.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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