Hedges, Kate (Defra)

From: bathingwater (WQ)
Sent: 06 February 2014 09:48
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: question about signage

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your enquiry. When the revised Bathing Water Directive is implemented in 2015 it will introduce a new way of reporting the bathing water results. A four year data set will be used to classify water quality at bathing waters as excellent, good, sufficient or poor. This is a change from the pass or fail system currently in use and there is no need to put up warnings for individual poor sample results.

The Environment Agency will make the classifications annually, at the end of each bathing season, and at some sites there may be variation from year to year. The classification made at the end of the previous season will be known as the "current classification" and the symbol showing the current classification must be displayed on a sign at the beach during the following year's bathing season (15 May – 30 September). The symbols can be seen here: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/signs.htm They will be used for the first time during the 2016 bathing season.

If the classification is "poor" a sign advising against bathing will also be displayed for the whole of the next season, regardless of the results of individual samples. If a bathing water is classified as "poor" in one year and improves to a "sufficient" classification in the next, the classification symbol would be changed and the sign advising against bathing would be removed.

There is an option in the Directive to predict poor results and discount them, if warning signs are in place. Using this option is the only time warnings would change during the bathing season. If you are a beach manager and you are interested in taking part in this scheme in 2014 please contact your local Environment Agency office.

Is there a particular beach that you are concerned about? Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

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: 31 January 2014 13:34
To: bathingwater (WQ)
Subject: question about signage

hello
can you tell me in the event of water quality tests continuing on a beach that will fail 2015 EU standards and the signage implemented what is the procedure to have them removed?

does the sign only remain present when the water quality is bad?
is the sign removed once water quality is stabilised?
in a effect could the sign go up and down informing the public of water quality?

thankyou
[redacted]