

**Question for written answer E-002737/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Ciaran Mullooly (Renew)

Subject: Ongoing pollution of Newport Bay

Newport in County Mayo, Ireland, has seen the continuous discharge of raw sewage into its bay; this issue has been ongoing for decades and must be addressed as a matter of urgency. Moreover, some of the wastewater is discharged into Clew Bay, which is a special area of conservation and a designated shellfish area.

This pollution poses significant environmental and public health risks. Although the Habitats Directive¹ requires the protection of these sensitive areas, the upgrade of the Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant will not be completed until 2030. Uisce Éireann has reported that the delay is due to legal challenges and planning.

In light of this:

1. How will the Commission oversee Ireland's compliance with the Habitats Directive in protecting both Newport Bay and Clew Bay from sewage pollution?
2. Does the Commission envisage contacting Irish authorities regarding the prolonged timeline for upgrading the wastewater treatment plant and compliance with the Water Framework Directive²?
3. What support or funding can the Commission provide to address the delays caused in addressing these urgent environmental issues?

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¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1992/43/oj>.

² Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/60/oj>.