Cork Lower Harbour
Main Drainage Project
**Contact details**
If you have any questions or need more information please contact us.

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Web:    **www.water.ie/corklowerharbour**

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**General queries**
9am-5.30pm, Mon-Fri

Telephone:  **Callsave 1850 448 448** or **+353 1 707 2824**

**Water supply queries and emergencies**
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Telephone:  **Callsave 1850 278 278** or **+353 1 707 2828**

Minicom:  **LoCall 1890 378 378** (for hearing impaired customers with their own minicom equipment).

Please note that the rates charged for 1850 (Callsave) and 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary across different service providers. Calls made using mobiles may be more expensive. This publication is available in Braille, on CD and in large text format on request by calling 1850 448 448.

**Safeguarding our water for our future**
Background
Cork Harbour is the second largest natural harbour in the world. Located at the estuary of the River Lee it has significant environmental importance, has a rich maritime history and a proud industrial tradition. As an economic hub, it supports employment, promotes tourism in the area and is used for a variety of recreational activities such as fishing, rowing, swimming, sailing and windsurfing.

The issue
Untreated raw sewage has been discharging directly into the lower harbour for decades. Wastewater is collected from homes and businesses across the lower harbour area and undergoes no treatment before being discharged into the sea. This practice is in breach of national and European legislation and means Ireland is currently in contravention of the European Union Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.
What does the project involve?

We are addressing this issue with a long-term investment in wastewater in Cork, as part of our national commitment to ensure zero raw sewage is discharged into rivers and seas by 2021.

The project consists of:

- A new wastewater treatment plant at Shanbally
- 14 new pumping stations
- 30km of new sewers
- Repairs to 25km of old pipes
- A drilled crossing under the estuary

The towns of Crosshaven, Carrigaline and Shanbally were connected to the wastewater network for treatment in December 2016. On completion, the extensive upgrade to the sewer network will ensure all wastewater from these towns, along with Passage West, Monkstown, Ringaskiddy, Glenbrook, Coolmore and Cobh will be transferred by new pipes and pumped to the new treatment plant, before safe discharge to the sea, through an outfall at Dog Nose Point.

This will support future economic growth in the Cork harbour area and improve water quality, benefitting our health and environment, and enabling us to enjoy this wonderful natural resource even more.
Delivery of a new wastewater treatment plant for Cork Lower Harbour

A new wastewater treatment plant at Shanbally commenced operations in December 2016. Construction of the treatment plant started in August 2015 and in less than eighteen months, we went from a greenfield site to an operational wastewater treatment plant. 50% of the untreated raw sewage – the wastewater from over 10,000 homes and businesses across Crosshaven, Carrigaline and Shanbally – is no longer discharging untreated into Cork Lower Harbour.

The innovative technology at the plant means that less sludge is produced, less chemicals are used and less land is needed than for conventional treatment plants. This gives a more environmentally and economically sustainable wastewater treatment solution.
# Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project Timeline

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Events</th>
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| 2015 - 2017 | - Construction of wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) at Shanbally  
- WwTP operational, treating wastewater from Carrigaline, Crosshaven and Shanbally  
- Design of network north and south of estuary, including public consultation, completed  
- Construction of network on south of estuary started |
| 2018 | - Construction of network on south of estuary continues  
- Construction of estuary crossing starts  
- WwTP starts to treat wastewater from Ringaskiddy |
| 2019 | - Construction of network on north of estuary starts  
- Construction of network on south of estuary complete  
- Construction of estuary crossing complete  
- WwTP starts to treat wastewater from Passage West, Glenbrook and Monkstown |
| 2020 | - Construction of network on north of estuary continues  
- WwTP starts to treat wastewater from Cobh |
| 2021 | - Construction of network on north of estuary complete |
Work is still underway

Work on the pumping stations and pipelines on the south side of the harbour started in 2016 and will continue until 2019. The project also includes the laying of new sewer pipelines across the Cork Lower Harbour area, a new drilled crossing under the estuary and the construction of a number of new pumping stations.

On completion, the Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project will treat all wastewater from Passage West, Monkstown, Ringaskiddy, Crosshaven, Carrigaline, Glenbrook, Shanbally, Coolmore and Cobh.

It is anticipated that the project will be fully completed in 2021, which will mean 20,000 homes and businesses will be connected to the new scheme and raw sewage will no longer be discharged into Cork Lower Harbour.
What are the benefits of the project?

- Zero raw sewage discharged into Cork Harbour
- Improved water quality
- Health and environmental benefits
- Enhanced amenity value

The new pipes, pumping stations and treatment plant have been designed to accommodate growth in the harbour area.

Irish Water is making a long-term investment in Cork to ensure that the water quality standards set down by regulatory bodies will be achieved and the people of Cork can continue to enjoy the benefits of the harbour into the future.
How is Irish Water engaging with the community?

Irish Water has sought to engage with the public at all stages throughout the project. We have hosted a number of information days for residents and businesses throughout the planning stage and also as work on construction of the sewer network is delivered. We are also engaging directly with people as we carry out work in towns along the south side of the harbour, through dedicated information evenings for local communities and a dedicated community liaison officer who is available to meet with people during the construction period. Irish Water is committed to working closely with the local community and to keeping people informed as we progress this important infrastructure project for the benefit of all.

Is there a commitment to traffic management?

In order to build the scheme safely, there will be some interruptions to everyday life, including traffic delays. These necessary delays will be kept to a minimum. We will work with the community to ensure people are kept informed and can continue with their day to day activities, with as little disruption as possible.
Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project - In numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>14</th>
<th>new pumping stations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>kilometres of new sewers</td>
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<tr>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>homes and businesses connecting to the scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>wheelie bins is the daily volume of sewage that will be diverted to the WwTP rather than discharging untreated to sea</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 million</td>
<td>litres of wastewater will pass through the treatment plant daily</td>
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How can I be kept up to date?

Delivering this project is a big undertaking and marks a major investment in modern infrastructure to support economic growth and development in the Cork region. Irish Water will continue to engage with the local community to ensure you are informed of developments at every stage and that the project takes account of local issues.

Please email corklowerharbour@water.ie if you would like to be added to our mailing list or register online at www.water.ie/corklowerharbour for regular updates on the project.

Please text HARBOUR to 50015 to sign up for free traffic notifications.

Safety is our number one priority and every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum.