

QUESTION

* To ask the Minister for Housing; Local Government and Heritage whether any funding will be set aside in the upcoming budget to tackle the pollution at Lady's Island Lake, County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
- Jennifer Whitmore T.D.

For WRITTEN answer on Monday, 8 September, 2025.

* To ask the Minister for Housing; Local Government and Heritage whether work has begun on a specific action plan to deal with the pollution at Lady's Island Lake, County Wexford; whether the Minister of State responsible for Biodiversity will lead on that programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
- Jennifer Whitmore T.D.

For WRITTEN answer on Monday, 8 September, 2025.

* To ask the Minister for Housing; Local Government and Heritage the cross-Departmental discussions that have taken place in relation to Lady's Island Lake, County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
- Jennifer Whitmore T.D.

For WRITTEN answer on Monday, 8 September, 2025.

REPLY

Under my remit as Minister of State, my Department convened a meeting of officials which included, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) along with Wexford County Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) to establish an oversight group for Lady's Island Lake. This group has met on multiple occasions and is led and chaired by Wexford County Council. Teagasc also recently joined the group. I have requested that Wexford County Council urgently prepares a specific action plan to deal with the pollution at the lake, which will follow the framework and mechanisms within the 2024 Water Action Plan.

As Lady's Island Lake is a Priority Area for Action (PAA) under the existing 2024 Water Action Plan and, therefore, all mechanisms for undertaking scientific and compliance investigations, delivery of advice and implementing regulatory and supplementary measures under the Water Action Plan will be harnessed. This will involve very close engagement between Wexford County Council, LAWPRO, the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory (ASSAP) and the Farming for Water European Innovation Partnership project.

Funding from my Department has already been provided to support a significant component of the action required through the provision of (i) National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP) inspectors in the local authorities, who are responsible for investigating farm compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Regulations; (ii) free advice and support for farmers under the ASSAP co-funded by DAFM and my Department, and (iii) a national €60 million fund to support the implementation of supplementary measures through the Farming for Water EIP. In addition, any potential further funding requirements will be considered on receipt of business cases from Wexford County Council.