

# Press Releases - New weapon against Sellafield contamination - 17/08/00

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## New weapon against Sellafield contamination

Councillor Eoin Costello has said that the introduction of a new buoy to monitor radiation levels in the Irish Sea is a source of some comfort to people living in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. Unlike current monthly testing carried out by the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland this new buoy will carry out testing continuously without the necessity for the samples to be brought to a laboratory.

According to Councillor Costello this buoy is the result of a number of advances in technology and has been developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency. At the moment the RPII takes samples of seawater, seaweed, sediment and fish from the east coast of Ireland. In conjunction with the Department of the Marine it also takes samples from the centre of the Irish Sea. The new buoy will greatly increase the amount and regularity of information available.

This buoy is the first of its type in the world and results from it will be published on the website of the RPII. Data from the buoy is transmitted automatically via satellite to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Monaco and from there is relayed to the RPII's laboratory in Dublin. It will initially run for 12 months.

According to Councillor Eoin Costello *"I am continuing to take signatures for the petition to close Sellafield at my website( [www.eoincostello.ie](http://www.eoincostello.ie) ) and you can also find links to the RPII and Greenpeace sites on my site. "*