



## WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

### BEACHGUARDS

#### PARTICULARS OF EMPLOYMENT

The minimum requirement for appointment as Beachguard is: -

- (i) The Irish Water Safety “National Beach Lifeguard Award” or equivalent as recognised by the International Lifesaving Federation.

**Any offer of employment as Beachguard will be subject to submission of valid certificate(s) covering the full term of proposed employment.**

Lifeguards will be tested and assessed prior to appointment regardless of any certificates they may hold. The test will cover all aspects of Beachguard’s duties.

#### **AGE:**

In order to be appointed as Beachguards, successful applicants must be aged 18 years or older, in advance of appointment. Each candidate who reaches the age of 65 years prior to appointment will cease to be eligible for appointment.

#### **HEALTH:**

For the purposes of satisfying the requirement as to health, it may be necessary for each successful candidate, before he/she is appointed, to undergo at his/her expense a medical examination by a qualified medical practitioner to be nominated by the local authority. On taking up appointment, the expense of the medical examination will be refunded to the candidate.

#### **GARDA VETTING**

All appointments will be subject to Garda Vetting. In this regard the Garda Vetting Form (NVB1) **must** be completed and submitted with your application form, as well as proof of I.D.

#### **SWIM TEST/INTERVIEWS**

Applicants must be available to attend for swim test/interview at Ferrybank Swimming Pool on **Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2023**. Applicants who are unavailable on that day will **not** be considered for the post of Beachguard.

#### **AVAILABILITY**

Applicants must be available for weekends and Bank Holiday in June 2023 as well as the first two weekends in September 2023. Applicants must also be available for July and August 2023 covering a five day roster each week.

Time off outside of normal rostered time off will not be granted to Beachguards unless the request is for exceptional, extraordinary reasons, and is submitted in writing for approval (by post or email) at least 2 weeks in advance or is for force majeure leave (as defined in Parental Leave Act 1998). Employment is for the 2023 Bathing Season, and applicants should be available for the entire season. The only exception is where applicants are undertaking school/college examinations.

## **LEAVE**

Applicants must complete hours as rostered on the assigned beach. Any leave must be approved in advance by the Water Safety Officer.

## **DUTIES:**

Beachguards will be responsible to Wexford County Council for the performance of their duties and will work under the immediate supervision of the Water Safety Officer or his nominee.

They shall be on duty daily as assigned by the Water Safety Officer or his nominee and in accordance with the schedule of hours attached hereto.

1. Except when the beach is absolutely empty, the Beachguard should be on patrol or on look-out outside the station. The Beachguard should never be inside the station except when relieved for meals, etc., or when he/she is certain there is nobody on the beach. He/she should not allow his/her concentration to be diverted in conversations with the public or in reading. The primary duty of a Beachguard is to prevent accident situations from developing. The can-buoy and rescue board should be strategically placed so that it may be used at a moment's notice. Special vigilance is required where there are rocks or an outflow of a river, as there are likely to be undertows or currents.
2. Bathing costumes must be worn during hours of duty. Track suits or T-shirt and Shorts may be worn when not engaged in rescue work.
3. Life-saving equipment including Wexford County Council safety equipment must be examined each morning to ensure that it is in proper working order and any defects should be reported to the Water Safety Officer or his nominee.
4. Beachguards will be responsible for the erection and removal daily of bathing notices or any other mobile equipment which the Council may place on the beaches for the protection of the public.
5. Beachguards shall continually patrol the beach and pay particular attention to danger places where the large crowds congregate.
6. While two Beachguards are on duty on a particular beach: -
  - a) One Beachguard shall remain at a vantage point from which a full view of the beach can be had and remain on a constant lookout.
  - b) The other Beachguard shall maintain a patrol of the beach and in such a manner that any given point along the beach is visited at least once in every 15 minutes.
7. The patrol shall be maintained along the beach and when the tide is in, the patrol shall be maintained as close as to the beach as possible.
8. Beachguards shall not permit any unauthorised interferences with the life-saving equipment.
9. Beachguards shall always be courteous to bathers and should give them any required information regarding state of tides, currents, parts of strand that are dangerous for bathing etc.

10. If in the Beachguard's opinion, bathers are about to enter the water at a point that is considered dangerous owing to currents, shifting sands, weeds, undertow, etc., they should immediately warn them and give the reasons.
11. If the bathers are acting in an indecent manner, the Beachguard should bring this fact to the notice of the Garda Siochana at the earliest opportunity.
12. Beachguards shall proceed instantly to all rescues and render all possible assistance, where necessary, and they shall attend to all cases requiring first aid.
13. Beachguards shall report immediately to the Water Safety Officer and the Executive Engineer - Coastal any drownings or serious incidents occurring whilst on duty. If they cannot be contacted, a report shall be sent by telephone to the County Hall - **(053) 9196313** during office hours and **(053) 919 6000** outside office hours.
14. At the end of each day a log book of day's work should be written up by each Beachguard. This log book will be inspected from time to time and should contain time of tides, condition of wind, and description of any incidents throughout the day.
15. The Beachguards shall keep fit by constant practice and swim at least 400 linear metres each morning.
16. They will carry out any duties pertaining to the position as required by the Council.
17. It may be necessary to testify in court regarding matters of enforcement and litigation.
18. Beachguards shall carry out all appropriate duties as laid down in the Irish Water Safety Lifeguard Handbook
19. Beachguards shall read, be familiar with and adhere to the Ancillary Safety Statement for Beachguards; participate in induction training and cooperate with other safety training provided by the Council as required. Any issues of health and safety concern shall be referred to the Water Safety Officer, the Executive Engineer – Coastal or the Wexford County Council Health and Safety Officer. The procedure for reporting issues of concern is set out in Section 8 of the Ancillary Safety Statement.

#### **PERFORMANCE REVIEW:**

Performance review will be carried out during the period of employment. The performance review will be taken into consideration for any returning applications for the following year.

#### **REMUNERATION :**

**Beachguard - €15.24 per hour**

**Beachguard in charge - €17.22 per hour**

## DAYS AND HOURS OF DUTY

### CARNE, CURRACLOE, BALLINESKER, BALLYMONEY, ROSSLARE STRAND, MORRISCASTLE AND DUNCANNON RESORTS

Two Beachguards to be employed

**June:** All Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays Hours of duty.

**July & August:** Rotas to cover 7 days per week.

**September:** The first two Saturdays and Sundays.

#### Hours of duty:

##### **BEACHGUARD NO. 1**

##### **BEACHGUARD NO. 2**

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10.45 a.m. - 1.45 p.m.  
2.30 p.m. - 5.45 p.m.  
6.15 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.

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10.45 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.  
1.45 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.  
5.45 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.

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