



12 March 2019

Stephen Donnelly, TD  
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**PQ 9392/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of cervical smear tests provided by the national screening service in each of the years 2012 to 2018**

Dear Deputy

I refer to the above parliamentary question.

The information provided in the table below outlines the number of cervical smear tests taken in all clinical settings and includes routine as well as repeat smear tests.

Year	No. of Smear Tests Taken in All Settings
2012	355532
2013	366998
2014	300357
2015	280923
2016	281992
2017	285804
2018	367176
<b>Total</b>	<b>2238782</b>

*\*note: 2018 figure is provisional*

*\*additional note: these are the number of smears taken **not** the number of women who have had a smear thus these figures will be greater.*

As you are aware, CervicalCheck experienced an unprecedented demand on the programme in 2018 with many more women coming forward for screening, due to understandable concerns about cervical screening following the CervicalCheck crisis. This has resulted in a significant backlog in our laboratories causing delays in turnaround times for results.

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☎ 353 1 865 9300 ✉ [info@cancerscreening.ie](mailto:info@cancerscreening.ie) [www.cancerscreening.ie](http://www.cancerscreening.ie)





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We continue our efforts to seek resolution on this matter. However it will remain a significant challenge during 2019. We apologise to patients affected and we want to assure the women involved that we are doing everything possible to improve this situation.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Frances McNamara  
Interim Head of Screening  
National Screening Service

Cc [pquestions@hse.ie](mailto:pquestions@hse.ie)

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