



05 February 2021

Deputy Cormac Devlin
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Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ5549/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of diabetic retina screen tests conducted in each year since the introduction of the National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme 2014 – 2020, by county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above query.

The table below illustrates the number of Diabetic RetinaScreen tests conducted yearly since the introduction of the National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme. Unfortunately the programme cannot provide the information by county.

Years	2013/2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Nos. of clients screened with final grading result	69,906	79,184	95,040	102,522	101,693	107,898	62,281*

*provisional data

Diabetic RetinaScreen was paused between March and July 2020 in adherence to Government and Public Health advice to stop the spread of COVID-19. When screening commenced, the programme began by sending screening invitations to eligible people, based on programme prioritisation. Invitations were issued to people who were overdue a screening appointment during the paused period, who are now due a screening appointment, who have now become eligible for their first eye screening test and who has joined the programme since March 2020.

Diabetic RetinaScreen continues to invite participants to attend screening and are reporting a high attendance rate for screening. We are working with providers to ensure screening is delivered safely, in line with Public Health guidelines, for staff and participants. All urgent referrals are being seen in the treatment centres.

The programme is continuing to identify opportunities for patient-facing healthcare workers to be scheduled for vaccination, to reduce the risk to participants and staff of COVID-19 and support the continuation services.

Screening is a population health measure for people who are presumed healthy and do not have symptoms. The NSS continues to encourage all people who are between screening appointments, or waiting for rescheduled appointments, to be aware of symptoms. We ask that those people contact their GP, who will arrange appropriate follow-up care.

Teach Óstaí an Rí, 200 Sráid Parnell, Baile Átha Cliath D01 A3Y8. King's Inn House, 200 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, D01 A3Y8.
☎ 353 1 865 9300 ✉ info@screeningservice.ie www.screeningservice.ie





An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

For other queries patients can call the Freephone information line on 1800 45 45 55, email info@screeningservice.ie or contact their clinic directly.

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

Fiona Murphy
Chief Executive
National Screening Service

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