



16 March 2021

Deputy Thomas Gould  
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Our Ref: EG/Communications

**PQ11336/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer screenings carried out by cancer type in 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021, respectively in Cork.**

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

The table below shows the number of cancer screenings carried out by cancer type in 2019, 2020 and in 2021 in Co Cork. The data for 2021 is for the month of January only.

Co Cork		2019	2020	Jan 2021
<b>BreastCheck</b>	Screened	18,978	7,822	0
<b>BowelScreen</b>	Screened	12,739	3,325	362*
<b>CervicalCheck</b>	Unique females screened in period in primary care setting	24,159	19,204	1,156*

The three population-based cancer screening programmes BreastCheck, CervicalCheck and BowelScreen were paused on public health advice in March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CervicalCheck restarted at the beginning of July, BowelScreen restarted in August and BreastCheck restarted in October.

Since screening restarted, we are ensuring all parts of the system have sufficient capacity to process the volume of tests during the restart period. We are taking measures to protect both participants and staff, and monitoring the restart to ensure their continuing safety. For this reason, we are unable to screen people at the same numbers we did pre-COVID-19. We continue to follow Public Health guidelines and are adapting our planning accordingly. The health and safety of our participants continues to be our top priority.

### CervicalCheck

As of 01 July, CervicalCheck had an additional 100,000 invites to issue. Please note that this was the number of outstanding invites due to the pause in screening, not the final number of people who will come forward for screening. By December 2020 all women who were due to be invited in 2020 had received their first invite letter and our labs were processing samples at capacity.

### BowelScreen

BowelScreen continues to match invitations to participate to colonoscopy capacity, and is working with host hospitals to maximise the volume of follow-up procedures they can accommodate safely during COVID-19.

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](mailto:info@screeningservice.ie) [www.screeningservice.ie](http://www.screeningservice.ie)





An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála  
National Screening Service

## BreastCheck

Although breast screening resumed in late October last year, in early 2021, many women who were due routine screening had their invitation delayed due to unprecedented levels of virus in the community. We are pleased to inform you that routine breast screening is again operating nationwide, with invites being sent out to eligible women for screening appointments dated from last Monday 08 March 2021. The focus of the resumption of routine screening is to achieve a maximum invitation rate that is compatible with a safe and controlled follow-up assessment and our treatment capacity within the health service.

Screening is a population health measure for people who are presumed healthy and do not have symptoms. The aim of a population screening programme is to reduce the incidence of disease in a population. Screening is not a diagnostic tool and no screening test is completely accurate.

The NSS continues to encourage all people who are between screening appointments, or waiting for rescheduled appointments, to be aware of, and act upon, any symptoms associated with the conditions for which they are being screened. We ask that those people contact their GP, who will arrange appropriate follow-up care.

For other queries patients can call the Freephone information line on 1800 45 45 55, email: [info@screeningservice.ie](mailto: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.

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Fiona Murphy  
Chief Executive  
National Screening Service

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National Screening Service



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Cúc  
The National Breast Screening Programme



AN CLÁR NAISIÚNTA SCAETHÁSTÁLA CEIRBEACS  
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Putóige  
The National Bowel Screening Programme



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Retiní do Dhiabéiteigh  
The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme