



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

30 March 2021

Deputy Holly Cairns
holly.cairns@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ15909/21: To ask the Minister for Health if a PPS number is required to access cervical screening services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ15910/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that opted out of cervical screening services in each of the years 2015 to 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above two Parliamentary Questions which I propose answering in one combined reply. I trust you are supportive of this approach.

A PPS number is required if a person is registering online for cervical screening. If a person does not have a PPS number they can register for cervical screening via our Freephone information line on 1800 45 45 55.

Please see below information in relation to the number of people who opted out of CervicalCheck in the years 2015 to 2020 inclusive:

Opt out request	Total
Opt out requests (01 Jan - 31 Dec 2015)	779
Opt out requests (01 Jan - 31 Dec 2016)	682
Opt out requests (01 Jan - 31 Dec 2017)	549
Opt out requests (01 Jan - 31 Dec 2018)	312
Opt out requests (01 Jan - 31 Dec 2019)	164
Opt out requests (01 Jan - 31 Dec 2020)	79

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 or contact their clinic directly.

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

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



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BreastCheck
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Coik
The National Breast Screening Programme



CervicalCheck
AN CLÁR NÁISIÚNTA SCAGTHÁSTÁLA CEBRHEACS
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



BowelScreen
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Putóige
The National Bowel Screening Programme



Diabetic RetinaScreen
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Scríonú de Dhráibéigh
The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme



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Brenda Ryan

Brenda Ryan on behalf of Fiona Murphy
Chief Executive
National Screening Service

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