



08 March 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
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Our Ref: HM/EH/Communications

PQ9864/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that received an invitation to take part in BowelScreen on a quarterly basis from quarter 1 2020 to date in 2022; the percentage of persons that accepted an invitation and subsequently attended a screening appointment in each of the specified periods in tabular form.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

People are eligible to take part in the BowelScreen programme once they reach the age of 60. Once the person gives consent they are issued with a FIT kit (screening) which is a test done at home and returned by post at their convenience.

People with a 'not normal' result are offered a colonoscopy. The programme continues to monitor colonoscopy capacity closely and invitations to participate are being issued relative to each unit's capacity. See quarterly percentage in uptake since Q1 in 2020. This information is calculated and verified in arrears; therefore data for Q4 2021 and Q1 2022 are not yet available.

	Q1 2020	Q2 2020*	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
Number of clients invited	38,600	0	15,641	78,338	20,150	57,322	43,623
% **of people invited in this quarter who returned a FIT kit	36.7%	0%	60.4%	38.2%	64.4%	51.2%	44.5%

* bowel screening was paused during this period due to COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 and the cyber attack means invitations in our current screening round (where we normally invite people for screening once every two years) are delayed by approximately a year. This means if they were due to be invited to be screened in 2021, we aim to invite them in 2022. We are prioritising inviting people who have been waiting for screening longest, and new entrants to the screening programme

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

Yours sincerely,

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An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

Fiona Murphy
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