



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

23 June 2022

Deputy David Cullinane
david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: GM/Communications

PQ29627.22: To ask the Minister for Health if he will address the matter raised in correspondence (details supplied) in relation to the provision of mammogram service in Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ31827.22: To ask the Minister for Health the reason that the BreastCheck mobile unit has moved from the Cork Road, Waterford to Dungarvan; if it is to be permanently relocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions, which I intend to answer as one. I trust you are agreeable with this approach.

There are four regional centres responsible for the delivery of BreastCheck throughout the country: Eccles Street and Merrion Road in Dublin; Newcastle Road in Galway; and Infirmary Road in Cork.

However, not all eligible women wish, or are able, to travel to one of these regional units. An important principle for the BreastCheck programme is to offer screening services locally to women in counties and locations convenient to where they live. To achieve this, each of the four screening units operates in tandem with mobile units. The majority of women participating in BreastCheck have their mammogram in one of these units.

BreastCheck screens on an area by area basis every two years. We call this process a screening 'round'. Every screening round, we carry out screening from two sites in Waterford: Waterford City (Waterford Regional Sports Complex), and Waterford County (Dungarvan Community Hospital). These two sites have both been operational in the county of Waterford for each screening round since the national expansion of BreastCheck in 2008, and are in place to screen populations as locally as possible within Waterford City and County.

The Waterford City mobile screening unit at the Regional Sports Complex was in place from 4 November 2020 until 1 April 2022. A second mobile unit commenced screening from the Dungarvan location on 6 December 2021, and will be completing this round of screening in July 2022. The Waterford City mobile location is scheduled to return to Waterford City for the next round of screening by early 2023.

We do not routinely invite women who have an address in Waterford City to the Dungarvan mobile unit, although it can happen for a small number of valid reasons.

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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We invite the participant concerned to contact the BreastCheck Unit South directly on 021 649700. This will allow our unit staff to answer any queries in relation to why she has been invited to the Dungarvan mobile, and if necessary, records can be amended to ensure she is invited to attend the Waterford City mobile for future appointments.

The participant concerned is also welcome to contact us on our Freephone number 1800 45 45 55. The line is open Mondays to Fridays, 9am to 5pm. We can also be contacted at info@breastcheck.ie

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

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Ness
General Manager of Communications, Engagement and Information Development
National Screening Service

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