



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála  
National Screening Service

03 March 2022

Deputy Alan Kelly  
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Our Ref: HM/Communications

**PQ10922/22: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details on the partnership led by the National Screening Service that will allow Ireland to set a target date for the elimination of cervical cancer; when he expects the work of this group to conclude; the number of times this group reports to him; if his Department has allocated funding for the group's recommendations: if so, the amount of funding that has been allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

In January 2022, the National Screening Service (NSS); National Immunisation Office (NIO); National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP); and National Cancer Registry of Ireland (NCRI) began working with academics in Australia to develop a model to work towards cervical cancer elimination in Ireland. This will involve using Irish data - for example, on screening uptake and HPV vaccine uptake - to tailor the model for our population and allow Ireland to set a target date for elimination of cervical cancer. The NSS has established a working group with the NIO, NCCP and NCRI to work with the Australian team on this important project.

The initial piece of research to model for elimination will take approximately a year. The model will give the HSE pointers on how to work towards elimination. This will include improving uptake of cervical screening and HPV vaccination to make sure no groups in our society get left behind. It will also advise on how both programmes can adapt and evolve to support the earliest elimination target possible. This will ensure Ireland continues to deliver the high-quality programmes to as many people who are due HPV vaccination and/or screening as possible.

The NSS provides regular updates to the Department of Health on matters relating to cervical screening. The Department of Health, and Minister for Health, have been supportive of our work to advance the global effort to eliminate cervical cancer and this important initiative is referenced in the [National Service Plan for 2022](#).

We understand that the Department of Health has addressed the part of the query related to funding and this project.

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

Yours sincerely,

Grace Turner

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Head of Strategy, Business and Projects  
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On behalf of Fiona Murphy, Chief Executive, National Screening Service

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BreastCheck  
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Ciock  
The National Breast Screening Programme



CervicalCheck  
AN CLÁR NÁISIÚNTA SCAGHTÁSTÁLA CERIBHEACS  
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



BowelScreen  
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Puitéige  
The National Bowel Screening Programme



Diabetic RetinaScreen  
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Riatraí do Dhiabéitigh  
The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme