



25 October 2022

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne  
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**Our Ref:** GM/Communications

**PQ50074.22:** To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time faecal immunochemical test teams in each CHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

BowelScreen – The National Bowel Screening Programme, is one of the National Screening Service’s three cancer-screening programmes. The programme offers free bowel screening to eligible people aged 60 to 69 years.

Bowel cancer screening is a preventative health measure. The primary objective of BowelScreen is to reduce people’s risk of developing bowel cancer in the future, by detecting and removing pre-cancerous adenomas in the lining of the bowel. When bowel cancer is found early through bowel screening, it is usually easier to treat and there is a better chance of recovery.

Once a person becomes eligible for bowel screening and their details are on the BowelScreen register, we will invite them to take part in screening. If they consent to take part in screening, we will post a FIT (faecal immunochemical test) kit to their home. When they complete the test in their home, they send their sample in a pre-paid envelope that we have provided to them, to the laboratory in Dublin where all returned FIT kits are tested.

While it may be that FIT kits are used by hospital services outside of screening, this model of care means that BowelScreen has no FIT kit test teams in CHOs.

For other screening queries, participants 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, should you have any further queries please contact me.

Fiona Murphy  
Chief Executive

