

12 May 2023

Deputy Pádraig O'Sullivan TD
padraig.osullivan@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: GM/Communications

PQ19948.23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of BreastCheck screenings that were undertaken in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, tabular form; when he expects the pre-pandemic service levels will be restored; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

BreastCheck: persons screened

The total number of women screened by BreastCheck from 2018 to 2022 is shown in the table below.

BreastCheck	Number of women screened
2018	170,583
2019	170,957
2020*	56,270
2021*	127,290
2022	156,786

* BreastCheck paused for several months due to COVID-19 during this period

BreastCheck invites eligible women aged from 50 to 69 years for breast screening on an area-by-area basis every two years. We call this process a screening 'round'. We have four screening units and 24 mobile clinics across the country. We have recently introduced three additional mobile units to increase capacity. Our mobile units move around over the course of each round depending on the size of the population that is eligible for screening in each area. The BreastCheck mobile stays in its location until all eligible women who are in the catchment area for that mobile unit have been invited.

Along with many public services, BreastCheck was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme was paused for several months in 2020 and 2021, and because of this, it is taking longer to complete the current screening round.

However, the number of women attending BreastCheck is close to pre-pandemic numbers. We aim to return to two-yearly screening this year. This is dependent on capacity, which is impacted by staff recruitment and retention.

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



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

We provide regular updates on breast screening on www.breastcheck.ie. Women can also contact us on info@breastcheck.ie or Freephone 1800 45 45 55. I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Murphy
Chief Executive

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National Screening Service



BreastCheck
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Ciock
The National Breast Screening Programme



CervicalCheck
AN CLÁR NÁISIÚNTA SCAGTHÁSTÁLA CERIBHEACS
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



BowelScreen
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Puitéige
The National Bowel Screening Programme



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