



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála  
National Screening Service

23 March 2023

Deputy Sean Fleming  
[sean.fleming@oireachtas.ie](mailto:sean.fleming@oireachtas.ie)

Our Ref: HM/Communications

**PQ12010/23: To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to provide retinal screening facilities in locations in County Laois (details supplied); if not, if he will consider same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**Details supplied:** Portlaoise and Mountrath

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

The Diabetic RetinaScreen (DRS) programme is for people in Ireland with diabetes and who are at risk of retinopathy, which is a complication of diabetes. It is caused by high blood glucose (sugar) levels damaging the back of the eye (retina). It can cause blindness if left undiagnosed and untreated.

Diabetic retina screening is available free of charge, once a year. It is for people with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes aged 12 years and older. Screening is a way of detecting any changes to retina. If retinopathy is found early, treatment can reduce or prevent damage to a person's sight. You can read more about the programme on the DRS website, by clicking [here](#).

### Screening in Portlaoise and Mountrath

We are exploring the option to offer screening in Portlaoise and Mountrath with our screening provider for that area, we will aim to have sourced a suitable screening location by the end of Q4 2023.

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

On behalf of Fiona Murphy, Chief Executive, National Screening Service.

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National Screening Service



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Ciock  
The National Breast Screening Programme



AN CLÁR NÁISIÚNTA SCAGTHÁSTÁLA CERIBHEACS  
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Púitige  
The National Bowel Screening Programme



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Retine do Dhiabaitigh  
The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme