



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála  
National Screening Service

14 April 2023

Deputy Johnny Guirke  
[johnny.guirke@oireachtas.ie](mailto:johnny.guirke@oireachtas.ie)

Our Ref: EH/Communications

**PQ15587.23: To ask the Minister for Health the total annual spend on BreastCheck in each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the Parliamentary Question above.

### **About BreastCheck**

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.

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. Three new, fully kitted-out BreastCheck mobile units are now in operation, increasing our capacity to screen around the country. We update our breast screening locations regularly on our website, [here](#).

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'. Our BreastCheck mobile units stay in one location until all eligible women who are in the catchment area for that mobile unit have been invited.

Appointments are issued based on when we are screening in the area and the length of time a person has been waiting for an appointment. (This is either from the date of their previous screening test or, if new to the programme, from the date they first became known to BreastCheck).

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### BreastCheck: annual spend

Total annual spend for BreastCheck in each of the past five years is shown in the table below.

Years	Total annual spend, €m
2018	25.952
2019	29.779
2020	31.383
2021	35.068
2022	38.690

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 Murphy,  
Chief Executive