



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

08 July 2025

Deputy David Cullinane
david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ 32426/25 additional query: I note in relation to BowelScreen you have answered "All samples were processed domestically by private services." Could the reply be revised to clarify for CervicalCheck samples processed by Quest Diagnostics, the amount processed domestically or internationally?

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question that follows on from the below response issued to you.

As referenced below, a woman's sample goes to 1 of 2 quality-assured lab providers we work with. Our lab providers are:

- Quest Diagnostics Inc. in the US
- the National Cervical Screening Laboratory in Dublin
- The numbers of samples going to each laboratory are detailed in the table below.

We use a lab provider in the US because there are not enough quality-assured labs available in Ireland to meet our needs. We hold regular meetings with the laboratories to ensure they are operating to the required standard.

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

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Ness, General Manager of Communications, Engagement and Information Development
On behalf of Fiona Murphy, Chief Executive.

30 June 2025

Deputy David Cullinane
david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ32426/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer screening samples, by type, which have been processed domestically by public health services, domestically by private services, and which have been outsourced internationally, by location or service, in tabular form.

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



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Further clarification:

1. Which of the three cancer screening programmes this query relates to: It relates to all four screening programmes
2. Clarification in relation to what samples are within in the scope of the question: Any biological samples taken or used for the purpose of screening
3. The timeframe this query relates to: Full year 2024 and year to date 2025

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question. I note that your query relates to all four screening programmes. Biological samples are not taken for the purposes of screening for our BreastCheck or Diabetic RetinaScreen programmes, therefore the information provided relates to CervicalCheck and BowelScreen only.

CervicalCheck

CervicalCheck offers free primary HPV cervical screening every three years to women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 29; and every five years to those aged 30 to 65 years. The programme is up to date with invites for cervical screening. Once eligible, it is up to each person to make an appointment with a registered sample taker. Women can check if they are eligible for their free screening test [here](#). The number of people eligible for cervical screening in Ireland is 1.3 million.

The table below shows the number of cervical screening samples processed by our two [quality assured labs](#) for 2024 and quarter one of 2025. These samples were taken at either primary care or in colposcopy.

CervicalCheck	2024*	2025 (01 Jan - 31 March)*
National Cervical Screening Laboratory	34,103	7,907
Quest Diagnostics Inc.	186,574	40,086
Total	220,677	47,993

* Please note this is preliminary data which is subject to verification and change.

BowelScreen

BowelScreen offers free bowel screening to people aged 59 to 69 every two years. The primary objective of BowelScreen is to reduce people's risk of developing bowel cancer, by detecting and removing pre-cancerous adenomas in the lining of the bowel. If bowel cancer is found early through screening, it's easier to treat and there's a better chance of recovery. Once the person gives their consent to participate, they are sent a faecal immunochemical test (or 'FIT kit') which is a test done at home and returned by post.

The total number of bowel screening samples for 2024 and quarter one of 2025 is shown in the table below. All samples were processed domestically by private services.

BowelScreen	2024*	2025 (01 Jan - 31 March)*
	139,758	37,000

* Please note this is preliminary data which is subject to verification and change.



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Yours sincerely,

Fiona Murphy,
Chief Executive.

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