



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

20 March 2025

Deputy Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin
fionntan.osuilleabhain@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ12774/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of women that have been subject to delays for cervical screening in the past five years, per county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

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. Once people receive their invitation letter, they can make an appointment with a registered sample taker. There are [over 4,000 doctors or nurses registered with CervicalCheck](#) in GP practices, Women's Health, Family Planning and Well Woman Clinics nationwide. Women can check when they are eligible for their free screening test [here](#).

Within the timeframe referenced in your query, COVID-19 restrictions impacted on the delivery of cervical screening, including pausing screening for 3 months in 2020. When we began sending invitations again in July 2020, we first invited women we considered to be at higher risk, while carefully managing the capacity available to deliver follow-up care to women who attended screening. By the end of 2020 we were pleased to announce that all those who were due a screening test that year had been invited.

We are up to date with invites to cervical screening. The number of people eligible for cervical screening in Ireland is 1.3 million.

We publish [quarterly data reports](#) on the numbers of people taking part in screening. These reports are published quarterly in arrears. From January to September 2024, there were 156,635 cervical screening tests processed within the programme. Please note that this figure is preliminary data and are subject to verification and change.

Our [CervicalCheck Programme Report 2020-2022](#) provides more detail in relation to the performance of the programme, including screening coverage by county (page 17).

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.

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

