



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

13 October 2025

Deputy Donna McGettigan
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Our Ref: ÁC/Communications

PQ52803/25: To ask the Minister for Health the current staffing complement of the National Cervical Screening Laboratory, by discipline and grade, in tabular form; the required staffing necessary to fully repatriate screening services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

The National Cervical Screening Laboratory (NCSL) was developed by the HSE and the Coombe Hospital to become a national centre of excellence for cervical screening. The NCSL opened in December 2022 and is now processing 25% of CervicalCheck screening samples taken in primary care. This is an increase from 13.5% in Q4 2024.

The current staffing complement includes a Clinical Director, Laboratory Manager, a small team of consultants specialised in the areas of virology or cytopathology, a team of medical scientists specialised in HPV or cytology and other critical support staff including a data entry team, quality resources and administration.

The National Screening Service (NSS), the NCSL and the Coombe Hospital are working collaboratively to achieve the strategic objective of the NCSL becoming the primary lab provider for CervicalCheck. We are planning to secure additional resources in a structured and phased way over the period 2026-2027. Such investment would enable another significant ramp up in capacity from 2028-2029.

A second laboratory will continue to be key to the delivery of a quality-assured national population screening programme so as to consistently provide for a back-up cytology laboratory service. This approach ensures the necessary safeguards in the event of the primary laboratory ever being disabled and is endorsed by the Review of the Implementation of Recommendations of the Scoping Inquiry into the CervicalCheck Screening Programme.

In the context of your Parliamentary Question, you may find [this article](#) of interest.

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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