

16 April 2025

Cian O'Callaghan, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 1550-25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of international protection applicants who were offered a public health screening in 2022-2024; the number who were not offered a public health screening within that timeframe; the number who attended a public health screening within that timeframe; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Cian O'Callaghan

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

The information requested is not routinely collected; material was gathered from several sources in the regional health areas. It was not possible to identify the number of people who were offered a screen and those not offered a screen. However, it was possible to identify the number of people who attended a public health screen in five of the six regional health areas.

For the purpose of this question a public health screen was considered to be screening for TB (disease) and/or BBV (HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C), please see Table 1 below. This aligns with the recommendation in the HSE *Refugees and Applicants Seeking Protection (RASP) Service Delivery Model (2023)*, for screening of both Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) and International Protection Applicants (IPAs). The following categories of screening were collated:

1. Screening of adult IPAs: It is important to note that there is no routine systematic public health screening programme in place for refugees and applicants seeking protection in Ireland. However there are a number mechanisms through which screening is carried out. The HSE National Social Inclusion Office funds a Mobile Health & Screening Unit (MHSU), and offers screening for TB and BBV to IPAs >=16yrs old living in IPAS Accommodation Centres, prioritising those centres nationally where the majority of residents come from a WHO High Burden Country for TB. Screening is also carried out by location/service for example the National Reception Centre in Baleskin.
2. Screening of unaccompanied minors (UAM) seeking international protection
3. Screening under Public Health guidance, in response to a case or outbreak of infectious disease (e.g. TB, Hepatitis B)

Table 1: Public health screen for IPAs 2022-2024

Year	TOTAL
2022	2,815
2023	3,591
2024	3,812

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

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion