



15 November 2023

Deputy Colm Burke
colm.burke@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ48592/23: To ask the Minister for Health to provide a detailed breakdown of the number of invitation letters issued for BreastCheck appointments, the number of attendances at BreastCheck appointments, by county, for the period 2016-2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

About BreastCheck

BreastCheck is Ireland's free breast screening programme. We screen healthy women who have no symptoms so that we can find and treat breast cancer at the earliest possible stage. We provide breast screening for women aged 50 to 69 every 2 years and provide access to appropriate care for those who need further tests and treatment. We work to make BreastCheck services accessible to all, for example providing longer or group appointments, and information in braille and international languages.

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.

As not all eligible women wish, or are able, to travel to one of these regional centres, an important principle for the BreastCheck programme is to offer screening services locally to women. To achieve this, each of the four screening units operates in tandem with our mobile units. The majority of women participating in BreastCheck have their mammogram in one of our 24 units that service 54 locations across the country. Since 2020, we have introduced three additional mobile units to increase capacity. Our mobile units move around over the course of each screening round depending on the size of the population that is eligible for screening in each area. The BreastCheck mobile stays in its location until all eligible women who are in the catchment area for that mobile unit have been invited. We update our breast screening locations regularly on our [website](#).

Two-yearly screening

Along with many public services, BreastCheck was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the programme being paused in 2020 and 2021, almost a year of screening was lost and because of this, it is taking longer to complete the current screening round. However, the number of women attending BreastCheck is now close to pre-pandemic numbers. Many women screened in 2023 will now receive their next screening invite in two years' time. In 2024 we aim to return to screening all women every two years. This is dependent on our capacity and the ongoing challenges of recruitment and retention.

Number of eligible women invited and screening in each county

The table below contains the requested total number of eligible women invited and women who attended for screening in each county over the period requested.

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

Please note the figures reflect the fact that our BreastCheck screening units move from location to location, offering population-based breast screening to eligible women in that area every two years. This means we are not screening in each location every year / all year.

Being breast aware

We emphasise to our participants that BreastCheck is not for women with symptoms. If a person has any concerns or symptoms concerning their breast health, they should not wait for or attend screening and should instead contact their GP who will give them the appropriate advice.

It is important that every woman is breast aware. This means knowing what is normal for her so that if any unusual change occurs, she will recognise it. If cancer is found early, treatment is more likely to be successful. It is therefore important for women to get into the habit of looking at and checking their breasts at least on a monthly basis. More information on checking your breasts is available on www.breastcheck.ie

Women who have additional questions regarding breast screening can contact Freephone 1800 45 45 55 from 9am-6pm, Monday to Friday; or email info@breastcheck.ie

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



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Ciock
The National Breast Screening Programme



AN CLÁR NÁISIÚNTA SCAGTHÁSTÁLA CERIBHEACS
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Púitige
The National Bowel Screening Programme



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Reiteil do Dhiabaitigh
The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme

PQ48592/23: To ask the Minister for Health to provide a detailed breakdown of the r

	Co Carlow	Co Cavan	Co Clare	Co Cork
Invited 2016	214	4,436	3,153	23,200
Screened 2016	179	3,960	2,381	17,976
Invited 2017	5,276	1,980	6,872	24,214
Screened 2017	4,127	980	5,510	18,814
Invited 2018	257	4,032	6,018	29,768
Screened 2018	214	2,804	4,156	22,793
Invited 2019	4,918	3,375	3,492	26,004
Screened 2019	3,519	2,865	3,151	19,427
Invited 2020*	1,378	120	2,093	10,123
Screened 2020*	1,191	82	1,944	8,451
Invited 2021*	472	1,078	4,290	19,045
Screened 2021*	372	994	3,977	16,081
Invited 2022	127	7,574	8,184	27,467
Screened 2022	102	5,472	5,141	16,295
Invited Jan-June 2023**	3,270	28	3,012	17,929
Screened Jan-June 2023**	3,054	19	875	15,089

* COVID-19 pauses

** Provisional data from the beginning of January to the end of August 2023, and subject to change

number of invitation letters issued for BreastCheck appointments, the number of att

Co Donegal	Co Dublin	Co Galway	Co Kerry	Co Kildare	Co Kilkenny
4,068	43,373	9,966	9,124	14,761	5,109
3,214	32,984	7,839	6,754	11,690	4,756
7,345	57,281	13,715	5,117	4,346	3,613
5,641	41,111	10,809	3,909	3,532	2,109
8,346	58,134	11,834	9,736	15,030	4,955
6,662	43,553	9,954	7,363	11,438	4,764
5,130	55,554	14,593	6,074	7,585	4,831
4,077	37,872	10,883	4,482	6,232	2,730
1,941	25,470	4,614	3,366	614	589
1,339	19,600	3,993	2,269	484	530
8,143	43,893	13,092	8,099	7,018	4,276
4,834	33,586	7,292	6,563	6,692	4,097
8,179	46,690	8,648	10,187	14,284	6,614
6,317	29,874	7,991	5,684	10,505	4,196
5,022	30,487	4,835	2,826	5,133	252
3,332	19,861	4,310	2,606	3,019	186

endances at BreastCheck appointments, by county, for the period 2016-2023, in ta

Co Laois	Co Leitrim	Co Limerick	Co Longford	Co Louth	Co Mayo	Co Meath
3,716	2,899	6,174	102	2,148	4,627	8,147
2,752	2,262	4,428	72	1,994	3,453	5,656
508	229	13,506	2,564	8,890	8,463	7,793
181	179	10,127	1,871	6,369	7,124	6,563
6,434	3,283	6,818	1,420	3,095	4,694	5,773
5,166	2,497	4,742	1,068	2,343	3,431	4,969
348	193	14,818	3,785	11,720	7,384	10,733
199	140	11,399	2,567	8,177	5,631	6,928
1,817	19	2,508	445	271	1,914	2,607
1,542	15	1,738	365	196	1,451	2,159
4,726	252	5,680	188	1,491	4,954	5,249
3,419	234	4,219	149	1,213	3,650	4,500
1,339	2,412	13,506	604	6,204	3,673	4,919
1,078	2,171	9,851	540	5,575	3,102	4,509
190	1,646	5,397	4,294	7,045	3,967	3,799
138	606	3,334	2,642	3,339	2,178	3,288

bular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Co Monaghan	Co Offaly	Co Roscommon	Co Sligo	Co Tipperary	Co Waterford
47	4,188	4,717	3,041	3,125	7,603
41	2,857	3,939	2,302	2,522	5,784
5,899	1,186	1,054	3,765	12,639	3,252
4,358	1,122	802	3,346	9,361	2,600
98	6,126	4,022	4,327	3,598	7,658
73	4,444	3,076	2,993	3,085	5,658
6,729	148	2,639	1,372	11,656	5,153
4,749	115	2,194	1,278	8,771	4,195
59	2,506	56	654	4,304	965
36	2,251	49	628	3,122	751
120	6,606	1,328	3,800	3,015	7,750
99	3,954	1,246	2,987	2,406	5,746
6,542	148	3,912	2,568	9,686	6,092
4,605	108	3,661	2,342	6,155	4,541
1,049	971	2,748	2,342	7,969	123
647	930	1,089	1,377	5,458	88

Co Westmeath	Co Wexford	Co Wicklow
5,513	2,283	6,192
3,930	2,023	5,175
153	12,655	7,587
114	10,107	5,796
9,069	3,380	4,604
7,042	1,890	3,323
179	12,389	10,960
140	10,860	8,770
2,357	2,099	511
2,156	1,453	414
4,996	374	1,722
3,932	300	1,548
3,336	6,002	10,934
1,867	5,376	8,861
928	7,032	5,401
826	5,237	3,264