



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

01 March 2024

Deputy Jackie Cahill
jackie.cahill@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ9749/24: To ask the Minister for Health if he has considered offering breast screening services in County Tipperary, given that Tipperary residents must travel to other counties; why these services have not been offered in Tipperary to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ9750/24: To ask the Minister for Health if it is possible for a Tipperary resident, located in the Thurles area, to be sent to Kilkenny for breast screening services instead of Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions.

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 (a screening 'round') 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. This may mean that a woman is invited to a screening unit in another county.

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 mobile units that service 54 locations across the country. Since 2020, we have introduced three additional mobile units to increase capacity.

BreastCheck does provide screening in locations in Tipperary. However, 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](#).

Screening in Tipperary

A BreastCheck mobile unit provided screening appointments in Cahir up until 31 July 2023 and in Nenagh up to 20 December 2023. A mobile unit is scheduled to return to Cahir in 2024.

We understand it may not suit all women to travel to a particular mobile unit for screening.

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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Participants who wish to be screened in Kilkenny instead of Limerick can contact the BreastCheck Southern Unit to see if there are any other suitable locations that can accommodate them. Women can contact the BreastCheck Southern unit on 021 464 9700; Monday to Friday between 8am–5pm.

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.

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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 Reataí do Dhiabéitigh
The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme