



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

6 February 2025

Deputy Emer Currie
emer.currie@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: GM/Communications

PQ1320.25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of people currently eligible for BreastCheck screening who are waiting for their first mammogram in the Dublin north west HSE area of Dublin 7, 11, and 15; the number of individuals currently awaiting follow-up appointments in the same area; the length of time they have been waiting, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ1321.25: To ask the Minister for Health the details of the current operational status of the BreastCheck mobile unit located at the Blanchardstown Shopping Centre; if there have been changes in its operation; the number of women screened on a monthly basis since it opened; the number of women currently awaiting breast screening appointments at this mobile unit; the average waiting time for an appointment at this mobile unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above two Parliamentary Questions. I propose to answer them together and trust that you are happy with that approach.

About BreastCheck

BreastCheck is Ireland's free breast screening programme. We screen women who have no symptoms of breast cancer so that we can find and treat breast cancer at the earliest possible stage. We aim to invite women for their first screening test by the age of 52 - in some cases it will be 53; and every two to three years after that, up to the age of 69. We 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.

We have four BreastCheck static screening units and 24 mobile clinics across the country. Since 2020, we have introduced three additional mobile units to increase capacity. We are looking at introducing more units to further reduce barriers for women, enabling greater access to screening. We update our breast screening locations regularly on our [website](#).

Mobile clinics enable us to provide breast screening for more women across the country. They typically stay at a location for between three months and two years and we invite eligible women living in the area for screening. The units then move to another location, where we invite eligible women in that area. We work to ensure that no unit is sitting idle for periods of time and that all women in Ireland have an equal and equitable opportunity to attend screening close to where they live.

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



BreastCheck
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Cerebheacs
The National Breast Screening Programme



CervicalCheck
AN CLÁR NÁISIÚNTA SCAGTHÁSTÁLA CEREBHEACS
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



BowelScreen
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Pútlóige
The National Bowel Screening Programme



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



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

BreastCheck in Blanchardstown

A mobile unit has been located at the Blanchardstown Shopping Centre since September 2022.

The unit in Blanchardstown invites women from the following electoral divisions: Abbottstown/Tyrellstown, Castleknock/Knockmarroon and Lucan North. Data collected in January 2025 shows there were 2,384 women from these areas awaiting their first screening invitation, and 364 of these women have been eligible for BreastCheck for over 24 months. We aim to screen women every two to three years. There are 858 women awaiting and invitation for their second or subsequent mammogram, whose previous mammogram was over two years ago.

The electoral divisions areas of Ballygall, Ballymun, Cabra and Finglas fall within the post codes mentioned in your question, and are served by the Eccles Street unit in Dublin 7.

Data collected in January 2025 shows there are 1,259 women from these areas awaiting their first screening invitation, with 10 of these women eligible for over 24 months. There are 965 women in these areas who are waiting for their second or subsequent mammogram invitation whose previous mammogram was more than two years ago.

Eligible women who are due a screening mammogram, or who have been unable to take up a previous screening invitation, can contact the BreastCheck Eccles Unit by email at eccles@breastcheck.ie, or by phoning [01 882 6200](tel:018826200), Monday to Friday between 8am–5pm, and we will aim to find the most suitable place, date and time for them to attend.

Measures to improve screening uptake

One of our objectives is to increase screening uptake rates and to reduce missed or cancelled appointments. By ensuring that every appointment is filled, more women can avail of screening. We would appreciate your support in promoting the availability of the free screening programmes through your communications channels and encouraging women to choose screening when invited.

We provide materials in various formats to ensure that people have access to information that will help them make informed decisions about screening. We have [information videos available in 25 languages](#) and EasyRead, plain English, and photo story [resources](#).

Our [website](#) provides information on how we are working to improve equity in screening. This includes the Traveller Health Project where we partnered with Pavee Point and the National Cancer Control Programme to address the cancer prevention, early detection, and screening needs of the Traveller community in the Finglas and Blanchardstown area. You may be interested to read more about this work on our [website](#).

Being breast aware

BreastCheck is a screening service for women aged 50-69 who do not have symptoms of breast cancer. Women with concerns or symptoms concerning their breast health should not wait for or attend screening and should instead contact their GP who will give them the appropriate advice.

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 tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

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 breasts, and on how a woman can reduce her risk of breast cancer, is available on hse.ie/breastcheck.

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.

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



BreastCheck
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Cioch
The National Breast Screening Programme



CervicalCheck
AN CLÁR NÁISIÚNTA SCAGTHÁSTÁLA CERIBHEACS
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



BowelScreen
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Púitige
The National Bowel Screening Programme



Diabetic RetinaScreen
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Riatraí do Dhiabéitigh
The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme