

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE SCOPING INQUIRY (SCALLY REPORT) PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY FOR QUARTER 2 2021

Introduction

The Programme for Government commits to “fully implement the recommendations contained in Dr Scally’s Report of the Scoping Inquiry, and all other reports into CervicalCheck”.

Since Quarter 1 2019, the Department of Health has been publishing quarterly progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations made in Dr Scally’s 2018 report. Significant progress has been made over the past two years in implementing the recommendations and associated actions, across all themes and areas of work, by the Department of Health, the HSE and the National Cancer Registry Ireland (NCRI).

Actions across a significant number of recommendations have been completed in the period 2018-2021. Further developments in these areas are now integrated and mainstreamed into the usual and ongoing work programmes, governance structures and oversight reporting mechanisms in the Department and the HSE.

By the end of Quarter 2, 2021, 164 out of 170 actions have been completed, with 9 actions completed during the second quarter of the year. All remaining 6 actions are ‘in progress’.

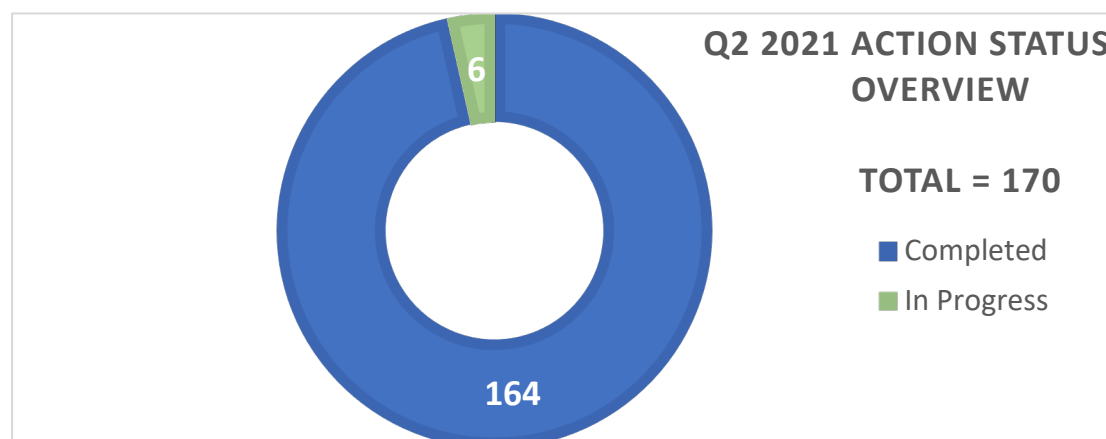
As well as the ongoing developments in the CervicalCheck programme and the National Screening Service, the implementation of many recommendations continues to have a wider impact on many areas of health policy and programme delivery. This includes the ongoing work of the National Screening Advisory Committee and the Women’s Health Taskforce, for example, as well as ongoing policy development around issues such as open disclosure, and patient and public participation in health policy development and implementation. The importance of continuing to work to improve public understanding, trust and uptake of population-based screening programmes is also reflected in the strategic actions plans for Sláintecare and Healthy Ireland for the coming years.

Implementation to date in 2021

This is the second quarterly progress report for 2021, and further ongoing progress in implementation is reported for the second quarter of this year.

Summary Position at end Quarter 2 2021

As of the end of Quarter 2 2021, 164 out of 170 actions have been completed, with nine (9) actions completed during the second quarter of the year. All remaining six (6) actions are now marked 'in progress'.



Of the 6 remaining actions, three (3) are with the Department of Health, one (1) with the HSE and two (2) with the NCRI; many of these are significantly progressed and expected to be completed later this year.

Progress made in Quarter 2 2021

During Quarter 2 2021, significant progress was made. Five (5) actions were completed by NCRI, two (2) by the HSE and two (2) by the Department of Health.

The five (5) actions, completed by the NCRI, in Quarter 2 2021, continued to build on the ongoing programme of work under the theme of 'Cancer Registration'. The completed actions relate primarily to ongoing developments in formalising data sharing agreements and reporting arrangements with key organisations; the review of data definitions to increase effectiveness of the CervicalCheck programme; assessment of the quality of cancer services, comparing these for screen and non-screen detected cases by producing cancer trend reports on Cervical Cancer and more in-depth reports will be undertaken in conjunction with the NSS once data exchange has been incorporated into the annual cycle of data capture in the NCRI. An Advisory Council, comprising patients, public health specialists and clinicians will be established later in the year and the Terms of Reference for this Group are being finalised.

Within the HSE, two (2) actions were completed. Significant progress was made during Q2 2021 where the review the current arrangements for patients' access to their records has now been completed as part of the scope of the Record Retention Review. All sub-groups to review implementation of the interval cancer audits (ERG) have been established with agreed membership and terms of reference drafted/approved. Implementation now forms part of normal business for NSS.

Significant progress was also made by the Department of Health during Q2 2021 where two (2) actions were completed. An important piece of work that has been completed relates to advancing the implementation plan for a new Public Health model, where an agreement has been reached between relevant parties that will support the implementation of a fundamentally reformed public health model at a national and regional level which is aligned with international best practice and the role envisaged for Specialists in Public Health Medicine in Dr Scally's Report and the 2018 Crowe Horwath Report.

The Department and NCRI Board have engaged with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to conduct annual peer reviews. Draft Terms of Reference were drawn up and a proposal for the first review received from IARC when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. The review will be undertaken as soon as the Covid-19 situation permits. The development of the arrangements for holding Restoration of Trust Meetings under the CervicalCheck Tribunal Act is still progressing

Ongoing work in 2021

The focus for the rest of 2021 is on making further and significant progress in implementation of the remaining (6) actions.

These actions include a number of actions relating to the ongoing work programme of the NCRI; finalisation of actions within the HSE relating to document management and access to records; and, within the Department, relating to the formal establishment of the Restoration of Trust meetings process and to continue to further progress the strengthening of the guidance for registered medical practitioners with the Medical Council.

The Minister is committed to continuing to publish quarterly progress reports in 2021 in order to provide details of the work underway and to acknowledge the significant progress achieved.

The full archive of Dr Scally's reports and reviews, implementation plan and previous quarterly progress reports are available on the Department of Health website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/030b53-scoping-inquiry-into-the-cervicalcheck-screening-programme/>

The terms of reference of the CervicalCheck Committee, chaired by Professor Anne Scott, includes oversight and assurance on the implementation of the Scally report. This Committee, which includes membership from the HSE and NSS, patient advocates including the 221+ Group, the Irish Cancer Society, Department of Health, ICGP and RCPI, meets regularly.

Further information about the CervicalCheck Steering Committee is available on the Department's website at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/351eaf-cervicalcheck-steering-committee/>