

# **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE SCOPING INQUIRY (SCALLY REPORT) PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY FOR QUARTER 3 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 3, 2021, 164 out of 170 actions have been completed, while no further actions have been completed during the third quarter of the year, all of the remaining 6 actions are ‘in progress’.

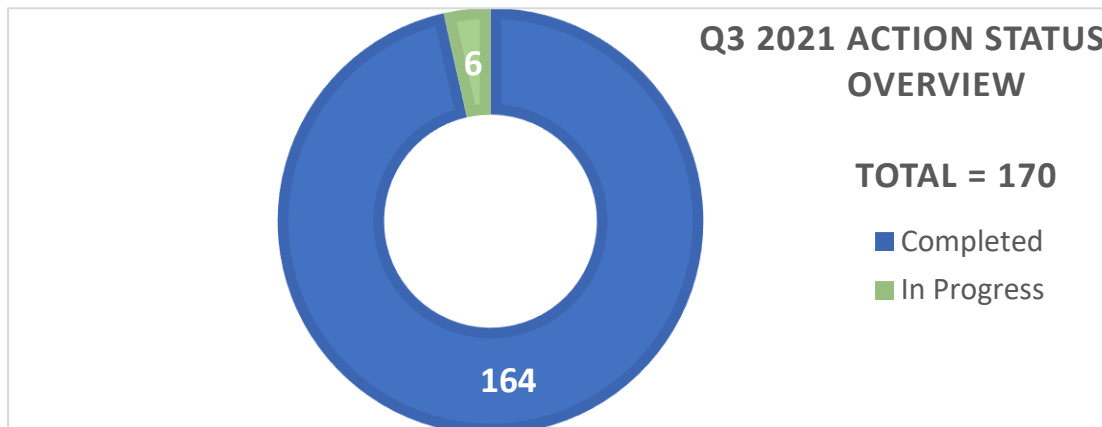
As well as the ongoing developments in the CervicalCheck programme and the National Screening Service, the implementation of many recommendations continues to have a wider impact on many areas of health policy and programme delivery. This includes the ongoing work of the National Screening Advisory Committee 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 third quarterly progress report for 2021, and further ongoing progress in implementation is reported for the third quarter of this year.

## Summary Position at end Quarter 3 2021

As of the end of Quarter 3 2021, 164 out of 170 actions have been completed, while no further actions have been completed during Quarter 3 all of the remaining six (6) actions are 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 actions are expected to be completed later this year.

## Progress made in Quarter 3 2021

The NCRI have two (2) remaining actions which in Quarter 3 2021 continued to be implemented. The NCRI has engaged with external contractor to finalise the outline of a data architecture system, with this work completed in Q3 2021. NCRI is currently developing a multi-phase plan for implementing the data architecture system, and it is expected that this action will be closed before end 2021.

The HSE have one (1) remaining action which in Quarter 3 2021 continued to be implemented. The review of the HSE's Record Retention policy has been completed and finalised for approval and adoption by the HSE. The review is nearing completion with a view to dissemination and implementation taking place from Q4 2021 as part of the normal business of the HSE's Data Protection Officer.

The Department of Health have three (3) remaining actions in Quarter 3 2021 which continued to be implemented. The Department has progressed engagement on strengthening the guidance for registered medical practitioners and has engaged with and will continue to progress further with the Medical Council to enable the requisite strengthening of the guidance for registered medical practitioners.

In accordance with the CervicalCheck Tribunal Act a Facilitator has taken up the role on an administrative basis to develop arrangements for the restoration of trust meetings and is currently conducting preparatory work necessary to offer the service. The Facilitator will be formally appointed by the Minister once the arrangements have progressed to an appropriate stage and potential issues arising from the legislation have been resolved.

A particular concern is in respect of how the meetings will operate in light of COVID-19. It was envisaged that these meeting would take place face to face and if they cannot now be implemented as intended, it may impact the arrangements for the meetings and their effectiveness. The Facilitator intends to consult with all stakeholders on how the meetings could best be arranged in line with safety measures in place.

## Ongoing work in 2021

The focus for the rest of 2021 is on making further and significant progress in implementation of the remaining six (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/>