

Implementation of the Recommendations of the Report of the Scoping Inquiry (Sally Report) PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY FOR QUARTER 1 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 2018-2020. 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 2020, 148 out of 170 actions were completed, with 22 actions remaining. The focus in 2021 is on progressing these remaining actions. The CervicalCheck Steering Committee, chaired by Professor Anne Scott, has a key role in oversight and assurance of this ongoing implementation.

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.

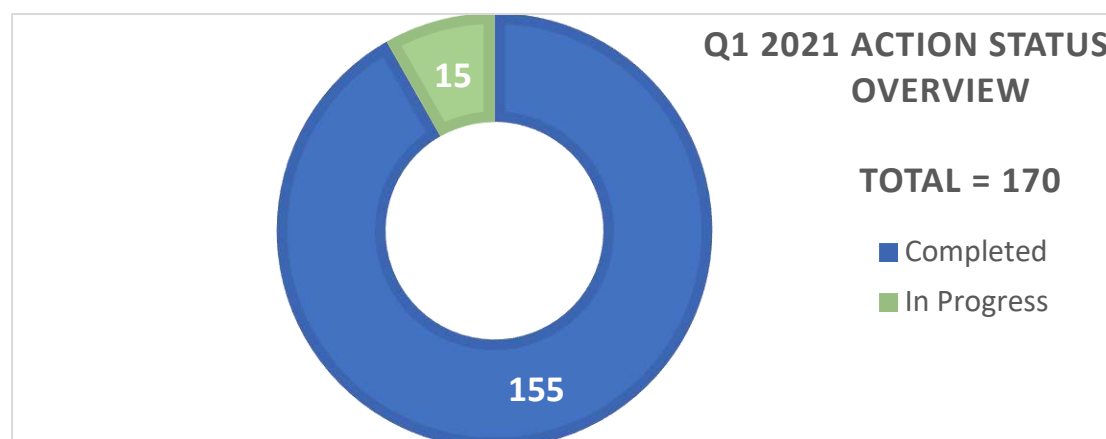
The importance of continuing to work to improve public understanding, trust and uptake of population-based screening programmes is also reflected in the strategic actions plans for Sláintecare and Healthy Ireland for the coming years.

Implementation to date in 2021

This is the first quarterly progress report for 2021, and further ongoing progress in implementation is reported for the first three months of this year.

Summary Position at the end of Quarter 1 2021

As of the end of Quarter 1 2021, 155 out of 170 actions have been completed, with seven (7) actions completed during the first three months of the year. All remaining 15 actions are now marked 'in progress'.



A small number of actions that were previously marked 'overdue to start' in 2020, and which were dependant on other actions being progressed in order to start, are now in progress in 2021.

Of the 15 remaining actions, five (5) are with the Department of Health, three (3) with the HSE and seven (7) with the NCRI; many of these are significantly progressed and expected to be completed later this year.

Progress made in Quarter 1 2021

Seven (7) actions were completed by the NCRI in Quarter 1 2021, continuing 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 awarding of a contract for development of a data architecture system blueprint; completion of the development of a process to review and monitor data quality and completeness, and ongoing collaboration with the NSS and NCCP on updating of the NCRI's cancer registration system to include agreed additional information and supporting implementation of recommendations on interval cancer rate calculations.

Within the HSE, significant progress was made during Q1 2021 on developing and finalising the implementation plans for the recommendations from the Expert Reference Groups' (ERG) reports on interval cancer audit, and this work is progressing within the strengthened organisational and governance arrangements within the NSS.

Significant progress was also made by the Department of Health during Q1 2021 in advancing the implementation plan for a new Public Health model, and in progressing the development of the arrangements for holding Restoration of Trust Meetings under the CervicalCheck Tribunal Act.

Ongoing work in 2021

The focus for the rest of 2021 is on making further and significant progress in implementation of the remaining (15) 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, as well as the finalisation of the implementation plans for the ERG reports on interval cancers; and within the Department relating to the formal establishment of the Restoration of Trust meetings process and the finalisation of the implementation plan for the new Public Health model.

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 Steering 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/>