

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE SCOPING INQUIRY (SCALLY REPORT) PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY FOR QUARTER 4 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 4, 2021, a further two (2) actions have been completed. This means a total of 166 out of 170 actions have been completed, and all of the remaining four (4) actions are ‘in progress’.

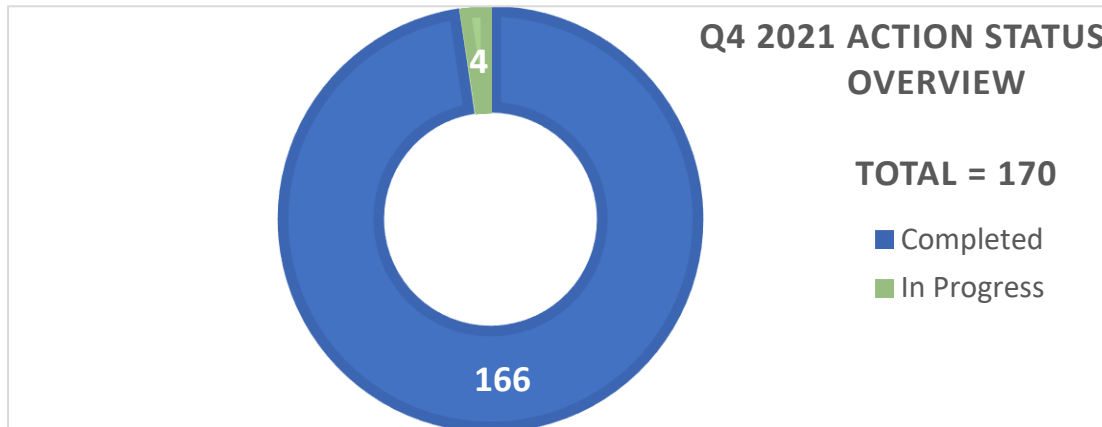
As well as the ongoing developments in the CervicalCheck programme and the National Screening Service, the implementation of many recommendations continues to have a wider impact on many areas of health policy and programme delivery. This includes the ongoing work of the National Screening Advisory Committee 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 fourth quarterly progress report for 2021. Further ongoing progress in implementation is reported for the fourth quarter of this year, with two (2) actions completed in this quarter.

Summary Position at end Quarter 4 2021

As of the end of Quarter 4 2021, 166 out of 170 actions have been completed and all of the remaining four (4) actions are marked 'in progress'.



Of the 4 remaining actions, two (2) are with the Department of Health, one (1) with the HSE and one (1) with the NCRI; many of these actions are expected to be completed in early 2022.

Progress made in Quarter 4 2021

The NCRI completed one (1) action and have one (1) action remaining in Quarter 4 2021 which continues to be implemented. The outline of a data architecture system has now been finalised and in Q4 2021 the NCRI Board approved a multi-phase implementation plan with the tender process for phase 1 of this blueprint in progress. The remaining action will be complete following the receipt of tenders and commencement of implementation in Q1 2022.

The HSE have one (1) remaining action which in Quarter 4 2021 continued to be implemented. The review of the HSE's Record Retention policy has been completed. Work is ongoing to finalise the policy for implementation and dissemination throughout the system during 2022.

The Department of Health completed one (1) action and have two (2) remaining actions in Quarter 4 2021 which continued to be implemented in relation to the Restoration of Trust Meetings process under the CervicalCheck Tribunal Act.

The Department has closed one (1) action in Q4 2021. The Department has had ongoing engagement with the Medical Council and received assurance that the guidance for registered medical practitioners is currently being reviewed and updated. This work is ongoing and is in its business plan for 2022. The strengthening of the guidance in relation to the practice of open disclosure will be underpinned by the upcoming Patient Safety (Notifiable Patient Safety Incident) 2019.

The CervicalCheck Tribunal Act provides for restoration of trust meetings and the intention behind a restoration of trust meeting is to document experiences, facilitate discussion and provide information to the woman concerned or her family. The Act provides for a Facilitator to accept applications for such meetings. A Facilitator has taken up the role on an administrative basis and is developing arrangements for the meetings. The nominated Facilitator has recruited a panel of moderators and will shortly launch a website with information about the meetings.

The Facilitator will be formally appointed by the Minister once issues arising from the legislation have been resolved.

Ongoing work in 2022

The focus for 2022 is on making further and significant progress in implementation of the remaining four (4) actions.

These are the 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 of Health, relating to the formal establishment of the Restoration of Trust Meetings process.

The Minister is committed to continuing to publish quarterly progress reports in 2022 in order to provide details of the work underway and to acknowledge the significant progress achieved.

The Minister for Health has asked Dr Gabriel Scally to conduct a final progress review of implementation of the recommendations of his Scoping Inquiry into the CervicalCheck screening programme. Dr Scally has agreed it is now timely to conduct a final progress review and is commencing the work in January 2022.

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/>