

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE SCOPING INQUIRY (SCALLY REPORT) PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY FOR QUARTER 1 2022

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 2018-2022. 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.

At the end of 2021, 166 out of 170 actions arising from the recommendations had been completed, and the four (4) remaining actions were ‘in progress’.

By the end of Quarter 1, 2022, a further one (1) action has been completed. This means a total of 167 out of 170 actions have been completed, and all of the remaining three (3) actions are ‘in progress’.

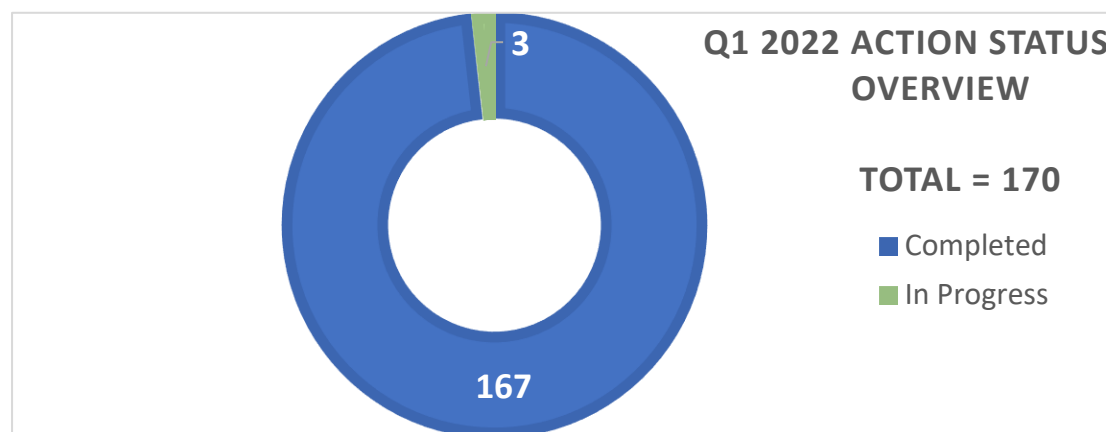
As well as the ongoing developments in the CervicalCheck programme and the National Screening Service, the implementation of many recommendations continues to have a wider impact on many areas of health policy and programme delivery. This includes the ongoing work of the National Screening Advisory Committee 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 2022

This is the first quarterly progress report for 2022. Further ongoing progress in implementation is reported for the first quarter of this year, with one (1) action completed in this quarter.

Summary Position at end Quarter 1 2022

As of the end of Quarter 1, 2022, 167 out of 170 actions have been completed and all of the remaining three (3) actions are marked 'in progress'.



Of the 3 remaining actions, two (2) are with the Department of Health and one (1) with the HSE: all of these actions are expected to be completed in 2022.

Progress made in Quarter 1 2022

The NCRI completed its one (1) remaining action this Quarter. This action related to the conduct of a tender process for work on a data architecture system. Tenders for phase 1 of the data architecture system implementation plan have been received and are being evaluated by the NCRI. Implementation of phase 1 will commence following award of contract.

The HSE have one (1) remaining action which in Q 1 2022 continued to be implemented. The finalisation of the revised Record Retention Policy was progressed during Q1 2022 by the Office of the HSE Data Protection Officer with the support and oversight of the National Director Operational Performance and Integration. It is now expected that the project will be completed by Q3 2022.

The Department has two (2) actions remaining in progress in Q1 2022, which are linked to the formal establishment of the restoration of trust meetings process provided for in the CervicalCheck Tribunal Act.

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, including engagement with stakeholders and the recruitment of a panel of moderators who are now in place. It is anticipated that the Facilitator will soon be formally appointed to the role by the Minister.

Ongoing work in 2022

The focus for 2022 is on making further and significant progress in implementation of the remaining three (3) actions.

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, and this is now underway in 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/>