

Update – April 2023

Minister Naughton launches National Screening Service Strategy – *Choose Screening*



On 26 April, we were delighted to welcome Minister Hildegard Naughton to Central Office to launch the NSS's first [Strategic Plan](#), *Choose Screening: Together we can make a difference*.

The event was an important milestone for the NSS and we are grateful to so many of our stakeholders who attended the event and worked with us to develop our new Strategy.

The Strategy focuses on the breadth of service we will deliver over the next five years as part of Ireland's national healthcare system. Putting

people at the centre of what we do and working in partnership with our stakeholders, are the themes that run through the strategy.

The event was attended by representatives of the 221+ Patient Support Group, the Marie Keating Foundation, the Irish Cancer Society, the Irish Institute of Pharmacy, the Irish Pharmacy Union, officials from the Department of Health, and our HSE colleagues. The NSS strategy is available to download on screeningservice.ie.

In the photo above, Minister Naughton is pictured centre, with NSS Chief Executive Fiona Murphy, left, and patient representative Grace Rattigan, right. In the second photo, Fiona Murphy is pictured with Interim Director of the National Cervical Screening Laboratory Dr Cillian De Gascun; Communications Coordinator of the 221+ Group Lily Fox; and NSS Director of Public Health Dr Caroline Mason Mohan.



Personal cervical screening reviews now available

The NSS has launched a new review process for women who develop cervical cancer after screening, called personal cervical screening reviews. Personal cervical screening reviews are available on request to all women who have had a cervical cancer diagnosis, and a CervicalCheck screening test in the 10 years before their diagnosis.

Read more about cervical screening reviews [here](#).

NSS's first blog as *Gaeilge*

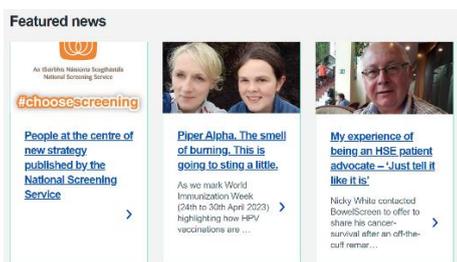
We have published our first blog in Irish.

Tá baill nua á lorg againn dár líonra Comhpháirtíochta Othar agus Poiblí appears in the [News section](#) of screeningservice.ie. (And in English here: [We are seeking new members for our Patient and Public Partnership network.](#))

Teach Óstaí an Rí, 200 Sráid Parnell, Baile Átha Cliath D01 A3Y8. King's Inn House, 200 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, D01 A3Y8.

☎ 353 1 865 9300 ✉ info@screeningservice.ie www.screeningservice.ie

Launch of our new-look corporate website



A new version of the NSS's corporate website screeningservice.ie was launched at the end of March, accompanied by the launch of our new [Twitter page](#).

The website includes a new Featured News section (shown, left), a Resources segment for our reports and publications, and importantly provides a gateway to information for the public about our four screening programmes.

Patient advocate tells his story in NSS blog

Retired postal worker and former intercounty GAA referee Nicky White has written a blog about his experience as a BowelScreen patient advocate.

Nicky, who had bowel cancer detected through screening in 2020, describes how an off-the-cuff remark from his surgeon led to him joining the Patient and Public Partnership group, and appearing in various media discussing his bowel screening journey. You can read his [blog](#).

If someone you know has a story to tell about their screening journey, and they would be interested in becoming an ambassador for one of our screening programmes, please get in touch with us: communications@screeningservice.ie.

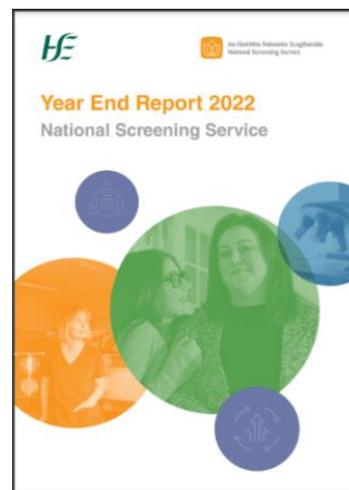
Two decades of cervical screening

NSS General Manager of Communications Fiona Ness tells her story of cervical screening over two decades and recalls her feelings of “grief and relief” that her experiences may not be those of the next generation, as she drives her daughter to get “a wonderful gift”, the HPV vaccine. Read her [blog](#).

NSS's Year End Report 2022 shows milestones in each programme

The NSS's *Year End Report 2022*, published on 27 March, shows several milestones that were reached across the screening programmes during the year. Some of the key developments include:

- Two BreastCheck mobile units were delivered, commissioned, and commenced screening around the country.
- CervicalCheck results turnaround times returned to four-week standard in early 2022. National follow-up colposcopy invite times also met the target turnaround times.
- More than 125,000 FIT kits were completed which was the highest number since the BowelScreen programme commenced.
- Diabetic RetinaScreen (DRS) began piloting the screening pathway which will provide regular screening for women with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes who become pregnant.



The *Year End Report 2022* is available to view on screeningservice.ie.

We value your feedback. Please contact us with your questions or suggestions at:
communications@screeningservice.ie.

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