

Dr. Gabriel Scally,
c/o Crowe,
Marine House,
Clanwilliam Place,
Dublin 2.

7th November 2018

Dear Dr Harty,

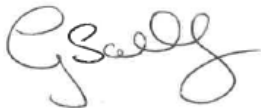
RE: PROCESS FOR THE CERVICALCHECK REVIEW/AUDIT

At the meeting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health on 10th October 2018, Dr Denton and I discussed with the committee the “18-month” cut-off point for the review of slides as outlined in section 8.4 of my final report. In the report, we documented information that had been supplied to us by the HSE in relation to the protocol for the review of slides. As you will know, we expressed great concern about the adoption of the “18-month” cut off point for review.

Following our attendance at the Joint Oireachtas Committee meeting, the HSE contacted us to clarify their position. It would appear, contrary to what we were previously informed, that “the reference to “18 months” was in relation to what would be considered a delayed diagnosis. It was never used to exclude slides nor was it used to determine which clinicians were written to with audit results. In the 293 cases (original 2019 & additional 12 & 72 with no change) the slides were reviewed from a minimum of 1 month prior to diagnosis to up to 78 months prior to diagnosis”. I attach a copy of the letter.

Although it is unfortunate that the 18 month figure was relied upon in compiling my report, it is welcome news that the situation has been clarified and that our concerns about the adoption of an unsustainable cut-off point were not, in fact, based on the true situation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Gabriel Scally

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07 November 2018

Our Ref: JC/JL
DG Ref: 514724

Dr. Gabriel Scally
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Dublin 2

RE: Process for the Cervical Check Review/ Audit

Dear Dr Scally,

I am replying to your letter regarding whether criteria were in place whereby smears taken less than 18 months from diagnosis were excluded from review. This was based on minutes of a meeting provided to you from the 25th August 2015.

The reference in the minutes to 18 months was in relation to what it would be considered a delayed diagnosis, this timeframe was referenced by Dr Flannelly. It was never used to exclude slides nor was it used to determine which clinicians were written to with audit results.

Following publication of your report and the evidence you provided to Joint Committee on Health, I asked the CervicalCheck Laboratory Coordinator to manually go through the cases flagged for further review to confirm the definitive position (we completed that exercise this week). This confirmed that in the 293 cases (original 209 & additional 12 & 72 with no change) the slides were reviewed from a minimum of 1 month prior to diagnosis to up to 78 months prior to diagnosis. It is likely that those smears taken earlier than 3-6 months before diagnosis were taken on symptomatic women.

I trust this clarifies the position on the audit criteria but if there any further queries please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



John Connaghan
Director General