

Dr. Gabriel Scally,
c/o Crowe,
Marine House,
Clanwilliam Place,
Dublin 2.
D02 FY24

Mr. Simon Harris TD,
Minister of Health,
Block 1, Miesian Plaza,
50-58 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2.
D02 XW14

10 July 2019

Dear Minister,

SCOPING INQUIRY INTO THE CERVICALCHECK SCREENING PROGRAMME

Further to the submission of my Supplementary Report to you in June 2019, I am writing to you to confirm that the work of the Scoping Inquiry is now concluded.

Since my team and I commenced work in May 2018, we have produced the following documents arising from the Scoping Inquiry:

- A Progress Report, in June 2018;
- A Final Report, in September 2018; and
- A Supplementary Report, in June 2019.

The publication of the Supplementary Report brings the work of the Scoping Inquiry to a close, and I believe that we have shone light upon all of the matters of material significance which relate to the various past problems with the CervicalCheck service. We have identified many issues relating to laboratories (10 of which were unknown to the HSE at the time of their involvement in CervicalCheck screening), procurement, governance, open disclosure and – most important of all – the treatment of women and families who suffered as a result of these problems. There are no matters outstanding of which I am aware and which require further investigation. Most importantly, I am confident that the recommendations which I have made, and which you have accepted, are already facilitating the development of a cervical screening service that, in international terms, will be outstanding. I am confident that, combined with the extension of the HPV vaccination programme, this strengthened screening programme will result in the virtual eradication of cervical cancer in Ireland.

Since my tasks are concluded, from today the Scoping Inquiry will cease to function and the team will be disbanded. I would like to thank you personally for the support I have had in carrying out my tasks. Your Department has been supportive and cooperative at all stages of the work of the Inquiry, without ever posing the slightest challenge to my independence.

In accordance with your wishes I will, of course, continue to undertake independent analysis of the progress being made by the HSE, Department of Health, and the National Cancer Registry of Ireland in respect of the implementation of the 58 recommendations made in my three reports, and to furnish you with reports in respect of this analysis.

It has been a privilege and a honour to carry out the Scoping Inquiry. In particular, it has been a humbling experience to have had contact with, and heard the voices of, so many of the women and families whose lives have been affected. I am grateful for having been given the opportunity to make a difference.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Scally', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Gabriel Scally