



**HSE Response to PAC re follow-up issues from meeting of 5th July 2018, PAC32-I-1012**

**Noel Taylor** to: Margaret Falsey,  
Patrick.Fannin@Oireachtas.ie

17/08/2018 15:25

Cc: PAC

History: This message has been replied to.

Dear Margaret / Patrick,

Please find attached response letter relating to follow-up matters raised in Committee correspondence reference **PAC32-I-1012**.

Kind Regards,

Ray

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**Ray Mitchell | Assistant National Director**

Rannóg na nGnóthaí Parlaiminteacha | Oifig an Ard-Stiúirthóra | Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte | Bloc D, Ionad Gnó Gheata na Páirce | Sráid Gheata na Páirce | Baile Átha Cliath 8 | D08 YFF1 | Teil: (01) 635 2531 | Rphost: [ray.mitchell@hse.ie](mailto:ray.mitchell@hse.ie) | Gréasán: [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

 **Cuimhnigh ar an timpeallacht sula gclóbhualann tú an Rphost seo**

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

**PAC32-R-1528 B 20/09/2018**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
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**17<sup>th</sup> of August 2018**

Ms. Margaret Falsey,  
Committee Secretariat,  
Committee of Public Accounts,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

***Re: follow-up items from PAC meeting of July 5<sup>th</sup> 2018***

Dear Ms. Falsey,

I refer to recent correspondence from the Committee to Mr. John Connaghan, Acting Director General in respect of follow-up issues from our attendance at the Committee on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2018. I.e.: letter (PAC32-I-1012) dated 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 regarding “Implications of CervicalCheck Revelations (resumed)”.

Please find below responses to the follow up issues.

- 1. A note on the protocol on the process for the return of slides to women, the timeline involved and the reasons for the delay.**

**Response:**

Requests from women or their legal representatives to obtain slides are being processed by the HSE. In order to protect the integrity of the slide and to minimise the risk of the slide being damaged or lost a protocol was developed with the laboratories to minimise the chances of this happening and ensure a clear process up front to minimise delays on individual requests. This has been previously circulated to the committee.

This is critical for women who may be taking legal action or who may choose to subsequently form part of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology review. There is a need to ensure that the laboratory nominated to receive the sample by the woman concerned has in place appropriate policies and procedures that are in line with those in place in the laboratories contracted by the National Screening

Service. The protocol addresses this and clearly identifies the necessary obligations on all laboratories in the protocol.

The draft protocol was used to support the initial priority legal cases and is now being used for all requests.

**2. A note on the number of the 209 women who have taken cases against the HSE in respect of CervicalCheck prior to April 2018 and have been awarded settlements.**

**Response:**

We have checked with the State Claims Agency and there were no cases prior to April 2018.

**3. A note on the meeting with clinical risk advisors and SCA in March 2017 and clarification on whether risk of audit was disclosed at this meeting.**

**Response:**

The meeting between the State Claims agency and Cervical Check was a scheduled meeting to cover a range of risk issues around the programme. These meetings between SCA and HSE services would cover matters such as incident reporting, risks and general progress in the service. These would also be held with other HSE services periodically. From review of the file note the meeting discussed the disclosure process and that the responsibility for this would be with the treating clinician.

If any further information is required please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Ray Mitchell**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Parliamentary Affairs Division**