



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

NHS:
MEL(1993)61

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

1993 REPORT ON THE SCOTTISH BREAST SCREENING PROGRAMME

Summary

1. This letter draws the attention of Health Boards and Trusts to the attached Report, prepared for the Management Executive on behalf of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group of the Scottish Breast Screening Programme. The Report records information relating to the Programme's performance and covers the background, introduction and structure of the Screening Programme in Scotland since its introduction in 1988 and includes 1991/92 results.

2. The results contained in this, the first Report, are encouraging and there is evidence of successful performance of the Programme which demonstrates that acceptable UK standards are being met and that in some instances the more demanding achievable standards are being surpassed. It will not however be until the year 2000 before the Programme can be fully evaluated. In future, Annual Reports will be published, providing in-depth information on the Scottish Screening Centres and on the work of the Quality Assurance Groups.

3. The Secretary of State for Scotland approved the publication of the Report today and announced this in response to a Parliamentary Question. A copy of his reply which highlights the salient points contained in the Report, is attached to this letter.

Action

4. The Report should be drawn to the attention of staff involved with the Breast Screening Programme in particular and to all clinicians involved with breast cancer in general.

5. Although the Report clearly states that Scotland, on average, is above the UK target of 70% for uptake of invitations, some Health Board areas have not yet achieved this target. General Managers are asked to assist in the improvement of the levels of uptake by more efficient administration of the Community Health Index (CHI) by the Primary Care Divisions.

29 April 1993

Addressees

For Action:

General Managers,
Health Boards

For Information:

Chief Executives,
NHS Trusts

Unit General Managers

Directors of Public
Health/CAMOs

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager,
State Hospital

General Manager,
Health Education Board
for Scotland

Enquiries to:-

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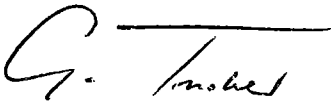
Further copies of the
Report may be obtained
from:

Scottish Breast
Screening Programme
Central Co-ordination
Team
ISD
Trinity Park House
South Trinity Road
Edinburgh
EH5 3SQ

Tel: 031-551 8836
Fax: 031-551 1392

6. This letter is copied to Chief Executives of Trusts, Unit General Managers and Directors of Public Health/CAMOs for their information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'G. W. Tucker', with a horizontal line drawn above the signature.

G W TUCKER
Directorate of Strategic Management

THURSDAY 29 APRIL 1993

WRITTEN

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MR RAYMOND S ROBERTSON (ABERDEEN SOUTH): To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, if he will publish a progress report on the Scottish Breast Screening Programme and if he will make a statement.

MR IAN LANG:

I have today approved the publication of a Report covering the background, introduction and structure of the Scottish Breast Screening Programme together with the 1991/92 results and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House. The Report shows that:-

- The Scottish Breast Screening Programme is based on 3 key issues: quality, patient acceptability and continual monitoring and evaluation of the programme;
- The primary target of the Programme is to reduce mortality in the screened population in Scotland by 30% overall;
- Each year in Scotland approximately 2,600 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed and a total of 1,300 women of all ages die from the disease;
- Mammographic screening is but one strategy in the fight to defeat breast cancer and by the year 2000, the Screening Programme is expected to result in about 1,650 extra years of life gained annually in Scotland; on average, each of the women in whom death from breast cancer is prevented will have an additional 15 years of life;
- In 1991/92, 126,867 Scottish women were invited for screening;

- The UK target for uptake of invitation is 70% and Scotland is above this with an average uptake of 72% of all women invited for screening;
- 0.9% of all women screened went on to have a biopsy, and 72% of these women were diagnosed with cancer; this level of diagnosis is well above the 50% target set by the UK standards;
- In 1991/92, 578 cancers were detected, equalling 6.3 per 1,000 women screened; this again is well above the UK detection standard of 5 per 1,000 women screened.

The Scottish Breast Screening Programme is an example of the increased emphasis on improving health structures set out as a goal in the Patient's Charter. It also accords with the Patient's Charter in seeking to provide a high quality service and standards and value for money.

SCOTTISH OFFICE

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04 MAY 1993	
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REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN