

**Chairperson's note of the virtual meeting of the
National Screening Advisory Committee
17 July 2020**

1. Welcome & Apologies

NSAC members present:

- Professor Niall O'Higgins (Chair)
- Dr Mary Codd
- Dr Sheelagh McGuinness
- Dr Velma Harkins
- Dr James O'Mahony
- Ms Martina Fitzgerald
- Ms Irene Regan
- Dr Susan Kent
- Dr Ellen Crushell
- Dr Paul D'Alton
- Dr Paul Kavanagh
- Ms Jillian van Turnhout
- Professor Michael Rigby
- Professor Ciaran O'Neill
- Ms Keelin O'Donoghue
- Dr John Ward
- Ms Anne Burke
- Mr John Gleeson

Invitees:

- Prof David Keegan, Clinical Lead, Diabetic RetinaScreen
- Colette Murphy, Programme Manager, Diabetic RetinaScreen
- Fiona Murphy, CEO, National Screening Service

Secretariat:

- Evette Wade, Population Screening & Chronic Disease Unit
- Luke Kearney, Population Screening & Chronic Disease Unit

Department of Health:

- Inese Freimane, Population Screening & Chronic Disease Unit
- Jane Hannon, Population Screening & Chronic Disease Unit

Apologies:

- Dr Alan Smith, DCMO, Population Screening & Chronic Disease Unit
- Dr Abigail Collins
- Professor Andrew Green

2. Minutes of the meeting on 5 March 2020

The minutes of the meeting on 5 March 2020 were agreed by the Committee.

3. Documents for discussion and adoption by the Committee

The NSAC adopted the following document:

NSAC Terms of Reference

The Secretariat of the NSAC will publish the Terms of Reference on the NSAC website.

The NSAC discussed and suggested changes to the following draft documents:

- a) NSAC Criteria for considering the Viability, Effectiveness and Appropriateness of a Screening programme
- b) NSAC Standing Orders

The Secretariat of the NSAC will update the documents based on the discussion and circulate for adoption by the Committee.

4. Case for the addition of ADA SCID to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme

Following on from the presentation to the NSAC at the meeting which took place on 5 March, the Committee discussed the case for the addition of ADA SCID to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme.

The Committee discussed the application in detail and approved it. The Chair will write to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme Governance Group and inform them of the decision.

A formal recommendation will now be made to the Department of Health.

5. Case for the modification of the Diabetic RetinaScreen Programme

Professor David Keegan, Clinical lead of the Diabetic RetinaScreen (DRS) Programme gave a presentation to the Committee on the activities of the DRS Programme and requested approval for the interval between screens to be extended from one to two years.

A Q&A followed where the Committee discussed the presentation and asked questions of the Professor and National Screening Service attendees.

The Committee discussed the application in detail and decided that the proposed modification requires further detailed study before approval to this change is granted.

The Chair will write to the Programme Manager of the Diabetic RetinaScreen Programme to explain this process.

6. Matters Arising

In relation to point 1.2 of the Terms of Reference the Committee agreed that the Chair would write to the BreastCheck Programme seeking further information regarding indications that the current round of screening may take 36 months instead of 24. The Committee wish to seek clarification as to whether this is a modification to the programme,

or a consequence of the delays caused by the pause in screening due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. Next Steps:

The Secretariat will:

- Publish the minutes of the NSAC meeting that took place on 5 March 2020 on the website <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/nsac/>
- Publish the NSAC Terms of Reference on the NSAC website.
- Produce the minute of the meeting.
- Make changes to the draft NSAC Criteria for considering the viability, effectiveness and appropriateness of a screening programme and the draft NSAC Standing Orders based on the changes agreed at the meeting.
- Circulate a post-meeting evaluation survey to members of the Committee as part of the continuous improvement approach to work that the Committee has established.
- The Chair will write to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme Governance Group and inform them of the decision.
- The Chair will make a formal recommendation to the Department of Health for the addition of ADA-SCID to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme.
- The Chair will write to the Programme Manager of the Diabetic RetinaScreen Programme to explain the outcome of the Committee's discussions.
- Chair will write to the BreastCheck Programme seeking further information regarding indications that the current round of screening may take 36 months instead of 24.

Niall O'Higgins

Signed: _____

Date: 17 July 2020

Professor Niall O'Higgins

Chair of the NSAC