

Ministear airson Slàinte Phoblach is Slàinte  
Bhoireannach  
Jenni Minto BPA



Minister for Public Health and Women's Health  
Jenni Minto MSP

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Clare Haughey  
Convenor of the Health, Social Care and Sport  
Committee

27 July 2023

Dear Convenor,

I am writing to the Committee to inform you that we will publish the Scottish Equity in Screening Strategy. National Screening Oversight (NSO) in collaboration with Scottish Government have developed this strategy and subsequent action plan, and the Scottish Government expects to publish on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Despite considerable work and investment, it remains the case that inequalities persist across the screening programmes. These are driven by multiple complex factors, and solutions require dedicated and concerted focus. This is reflected in the creation of the Equity in Screening Strategy.

The strategy was produced by a reference group comprising of experts from the screening system. The group has identified the outcomes we must deliver to achieve the vision of the strategy, which is for equity in access for all eligible people, across the full screening pathway.

The strategy sets six long-term outcomes:

- **Outcome 1a:** All eligible people are aware of the relevant national screening programmes, understand the benefits and harms of screening, and can make an informed personal choice with regards to their engagement across the screening pathway.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG  
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020



- **Outcome 1b:** Professionals working within the national screening programmes are knowledgeable of the inequalities that exist across the screening pathway and use effective interventions to reduce inequalities.
- **Outcome 2:** We have a strategic approach to identifying, addressing, and removing barriers to participants across the screening pathway.
- **Outcome 3:** We collect and use data on a wider range of person characteristics to strengthen our understanding of where inequalities exist across the screening pathway.
- **Outcome 4:** We ensure action to reduce inequalities in screening is evidence-based and have a robust and consistent approach to evaluating the impact of interventions.
- **Outcome 5:** We have a whole system approach to tackling inequalities in screening. Reducing inequalities is recognised by all as a priority and is supported by the screening governance groups and the commitment of all partners.

Achieving these outcomes will require tackling issues affecting inequalities in five priority themes:

- Communications, engagement, and learning
- Access to screening
- Data collection and monitoring
- Research and evaluation
- ‘Overarching issues’

We ask for the committees support in publishing this strategy and action plan as we work towards the vision of equity in access for all eligible people, across the full screening pathway.

I hope the Committee has found this update to be helpful. I am confident this strategy will begin a new chapter in our work in tackling health inequalities within the screening programmes.

Kind Regards,

**Jenni Minto MSP**

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG  
St Andrew’s House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020

