

DATE]

[H&C NUMBER

[DOB]

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for attending for your recent cervical screening test.

I am writing to let you know that your recent cervical screening result showed changes to the cells in your cervix. These changes sometimes happen, they are not cancer and, in most cases, do not lead to cancer. The cell changes can indicate infection with high risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) which can cause cervical abnormalities.

The laboratory also tested your screening sample for HPV and reported that there was no evidence of high risk HPV infection.

Due to the changes to the cells in your cervix, a further investigation called colposcopy is needed to find out whether any treatment is required. Colposcopy is a simple examination of the cervix using a colposcope (a type of magnifying glass). It is carried out at your local hospital and they will contact you directly about an appointment.

It is important that the changes to your cervix are checked now, in case they need treatment. If you need treatment after colposcopy you will usually be treated as an outpatient and there will be no need for you to stay in hospital.

Please note temporary changes to the way cervical screening samples were processed in the laboratory were in place between March and December 2023. This was done to manage the backlog in reporting and ensure that those samples which were at higher risk of cervical cell changes were prioritised.

Under this temporary process, your cervical sample has been ‘co-tested’. This means that it firstly underwent a test to check for the presence of high risk HPV and, secondly, was examined by a microscope (cytology) to check for the presence of cell changes.

The primary HPV testing pathway has now been introduced into the Northern Ireland Cervical Screening Programme from December 2023. Further information on the new screening pathway can be found at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/cervical-screening](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/cervical-screening)

If you have any questions about your result or would like more information please contact your GP or **XXX XXX**.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Yours sincerely

Dr XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX