

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 minor 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 sometimes indicate infection with the 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. This means that your chance of developing cervical cancer is very low and you require no further testing at this time.

Your next screening test is due on or around **xx xx xxxx**. We will send you a reminder letter nearer the time.

Cervical screening will pick up most changes to your cervix but can’t find them all. Changes can also happen between tests so it is important to go for a screening test every time you’re invited. If you have any unusual symptoms like discharge or irregular bleeding, don’t wait for your next test, but consult your GP.

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 test result or would like more information about cervical screening or HPV testing, please contact your GP or **xxx xxx**.

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

Yours sincerely

Dr XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX