

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 evidence of high risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection and changes to the cells in your cervix that need further investigation.

HPV is a common virus and most people will have it at some point in their life without knowing. Certain types of HPV are associated with an increased risk of cervical cancer. In most cases, your immune system will clear up HPV infection without it causing any problems. However, occasionally HPV can cause changes to the cells of your cervix that, over time, can turn into cancer if left untreated.

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.

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**.

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Yours sincerely

Dr XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX