

[DATE]

[H&C NUMBER

[DOB]

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

Thank you for attending for your recent cervical screening test.

I am writing to let you know you that your sample was unsuitable and the laboratory was unable to provide a result. This means that you need a repeat test in 3 months’ time. We will send you a reminder letter nearer the time.

A sample can be unsuitable if there are not enough cells included, it has been damaged or contaminated, or there has been a technical issue with the testing process.

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.

The primary HPV testing pathway was introduced into the Northern Ireland cervical screening programme from December 2023. This means that all samples are tested for high risk HPV and only those found to have the HPV virus undergo further tests. 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 please contact your GP or **xx xx xx**.

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Yours sincerely

Dr XXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXX