

Security classification: In-Confidence

DISPATCHED
08 JUN 2018

Memorandum: National Bowel Screening Programme Update 11 June 2018

Date:	8 June 2018	Report No:	20181176
		File Number:	AD62-14-2018

Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister Clark	Note	11 June 2018
Minister Genter	N/A	
Minister Salesa	N/A	

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

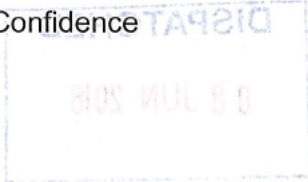
Name	Position	Telephone	Contact Order
Astrid Koornneef	Group Manager National Screening Unit	s 9(2)(a)	1st Contact
Jill Lane	Director Service Commissioning		2nd Contact

Actions for the Minister's Office Staff

No action

Note any feedback on the quality of the report

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 Action required by: 11 June 2018

Memorandum: National Bowel Screening Programme Update 11 June 2018

To: Hon Dr David Clark, Minister of Health

Purpose

This briefing provides information for the meeting with Jill Lane, Director Service Commissioning and Dr Jane O'Hallahan, Clinical Director, National Screening Unit, Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on Monday 11 June 2018, from 8.45am to 9.00am. The meeting will provide an update on the implementation of the National Bowel Screening Programme (NBSP).

Background

- Since your last meeting with officials on 30 April 2018, the Ministry has provided you with the following briefings about the NBSP:

Reference	Title	Summary statement
20180712	Meeting with Assoc. Prof Michael Schultz NZ Society of Gastroenterology	Information briefing for meeting with Assoc Prof. Michael Schultz and incoming President of the NZ Society of Gastroenterology Dr Malcolm Arnold.
20180849	Request for the Minister of Health to meet the NBSP Gateway Review Team	Briefing on upcoming Gateway review of NBSP and request for meeting with Gateway team

- The Ministry has also provided you with four Official Information Requests since 30 April 2018 and are managing a further three.

Communications and Media

- Interest in the NBSP remains high with media requests continuing to be received. The Ministry is following normal practice with these media enquiries.
- The Ministry has received an Ombudsmen complaint relating to an Official Information Act request from Nicholas Jones at the NZ Herald (HR20180628 refers). The complaint concerns the withholding of information specific to the three people who were diagnosed with cancer, including the clinical review. The Ministry will work with the Ombudsman, to resolve this complaint.

Activity

Bowel Screening Pilot invitation "do not load" List

- On 4 April your office was informed of the invitation issue relating to the "do not load list" within the Bowel Screening Pilot (HR 20180670 refers). All of the 9,540 people, determined to be eligible for screening, in the "do not load" list, received their apology letter in May.
- There are a small number of people who received an apology letter in error due to having multiple NHIs assigned to them. Whilst the current NHI would have excluded them from the 9,540 people, a

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	Jill Lane, Director Service Commissioning	

previous NHI caused them to be included. The Ministry is writing to 68 people and will continue to keep your office informed.

Counties Manukau DHB Commencing Bowel Screening

7. The Ministry is working with Counties Manukau DHB through the readiness assessment process for its late June 2018 go live date. A final determination of the readiness of the DHB to commence bowel screening is on track to be made the week commencing 11 June 2018.

Preparation for Nelson Marlborough DHB to Commence Bowel Screening

8. Nelson Marlborough DHB (NMDHB) is due to commence bowel screening in August 2018. The Ministry focus in discussions with the DHB is the deteriorating colonoscopy wait time indicators for surveillance patients. The wait time indicators are an illustration of whether a DHB has sufficient capacity to provide colonoscopies to screening participants without displacing symptomatic referrals. Lack of capacity has the potential to delay the commencement date to later in 2018.

Faecal Immunochemical Test haemoglobin stability

9. The screening test utilised by the NBSP (the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)) is endorsed by medical device regulators, like the United States Food and Drug Administration, to be appropriate for testing within 14 days of collection of the faecal sample. In March 2018 the Ministry changed from its previous seven day collection timeframe to the 14 days.
10. All samples are tested. However those samples that return a negative result and are outside the 14 days from sample collection are deemed "spoilt", and the participant is requested to submit another sample. Participants returning a positive result are referred to colonoscopy.
11. As part of ongoing NBSP quality improvement, including collegial discussion with international bowel screening programmes, the Ministry has reverted back to the seven day collection timeframe that was in place prior to March 2018, as 99 percent of samples are returned within that timeframe. A process will be undertaken to determine what the optimal timeframe is from the collection of the faecal sample to testing, within the New Zealand environment.

National Screening Solution Development

12. The contract for the detailed design phase of the National Screening Solution (NSS) has been signed and work is underway.
13. The work to date has provided a fixed price from the vendor to configure the NSS, valid until 31 October 2018. This forms part of the business case to joint Ministers of Health and Finance for the drawdown of the capital contingency to enable the NSS configuration.
14. The business case for the National Screening Solution is in the final stages of development, with consultation with the Central Agencies (the Treasury, Government Chief Digital Officer and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment) close to completion. It is expected to be submitted to the joint Ministers of Health and Finance in early July 2018.
15. The NSS is embedded in the use of an off-shore public cloud for the storage of data. Alongside other central government agencies the Ministry is in the process of developing its approach to the Social Licence question. This is a key piece of work for the NSS.

Gateway Review

16. The Gateway Review of the National Bowel Screening Programme was completed at the week beginning 28 May 2018.

Independent Assurance Review

17. The Ministry received the draft Independent Assurance Review (the Review) on 7 June 2018, and is working through a process of checking the report for factual accuracy. The feedback is due to the review team by 15 June 2018. It is anticipated the Review will be completed by the end of June 2018.

END.