About this Release
Cancer is one of the major causes of death in Scotland. In 2012, nearly 15,800 people died of cancer in Scotland and almost 30,500 people were diagnosed with cancer. The most common causes of cancer death and diagnosis are lung, colorectal and breast cancer.

This publication presents the numbers and percentages of patients diagnosed during 2012 and 2013 (combined) by stage at diagnosis for NHS Board of residence, Cancer Network and Scotland for breast, colorectal and lung cancers combined and individually. To help monitor performance towards the DCE HEAT target, stage 1 figures for year 2 (2012 and 2013 combined) are compared against the baseline (2010 and 2011 combined).

Key Points
- In Scotland, for the two year period 2012 and 2013, the percentage of people diagnosed with breast, colorectal and lung cancer (combined) at the earliest stage (stage 1) was 24.3%.

- In Scotland, there was a 4.7% increase in the percentage of people diagnosed at stage 1 for breast, colorectal and lung cancer (combined) between the baseline (2010 and 2011 combined) and year 2 (2012 and 2013 combined).

Background
In February 2012 the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing formally launched the Detect Cancer Early (DCE) programme. One aim of the DCE programme is to increase the percentage of people who are diagnosed early in the disease process (with stage 1 disease) by 25% by the end of 2015. A HEAT (Health, Efficiency, Access and Treatment) target has been developed to monitor performance in meeting this objective. The target will concentrate on breast, colorectal and lung cancers, which collectively account for over 44% of all cancers diagnosed in Scotland in 2012.

Cancer staging is the process of determining the extent to which a cancer has developed and spread. For the majority of patients with cancer it is common practice to assign a
number from 1 to 4 to a cancer, with 1 indicating the cancer is confined to the original organ in which it occurred and 4 being a cancer which has spread beyond the original organ and local lymph glands (regional lymph nodes). Patients diagnosed with stage 1 disease tend to have better outcomes and longer survival compared to patients diagnosed with stage 4 disease.

The percentage of patients with cancer diagnosed with stage 1 disease can vary because of a number of factors including the presence and uptake of national screening programmes.

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Further Information
Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website

About ISD
Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Official Statistics
Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD’s statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the ISD website www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/