Publication Summary

Scottish Bowel Screening Programme Statistics
For invitations between 1 November 2012 and 31 October 2014
Publication date – 04 August 2015

About this release
This is a release from Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland of the bowel screening statistics for the period 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2014 including uptake, laboratory and clinical outcomes.

Key points
For the two-year period November 2012 to October 2014:

- The number of bowel screening participants exceeded one million for the first time.
- Uptake was 57.6%, an increase of 1.5 percentage points compared with the two-year period November 2011 to October 2013. Uptake for females was 60.3% and for males was 54.7%. The Healthcare Improvement Scotland standard for bowel screening uptake is 60%.
- Uptake was lower in areas of higher deprivation. Uptake in the most deprived group was 45.4% compared to 66.4% in the least deprived group.
- Two percent of those returning their screening kit received a positive test result. Of those with a positive test result 6.9% had a bowel cancer.
- More than half of screen detected cancers (61.7%) were diagnosed at the earliest two stages. The earlier a cancer is detected the greater the chances are of successful treatment.

Background
The Scottish Bowel Screening Programme commenced a phased roll out in June 2007 and by December 2009 all NHS Boards in Scotland were participating in the Programme.

This publication relates to men and women registered with a Community Health Index (CHI) number aged between 50-74 years who are invited to participate and to be screened every two years. Eligible people are posted a screening kit which is completed at home and involves collecting two samples from each of three separate bowel movements. The kit is
then returned to the central screening centre in Dundee and tested for hidden traces of blood in the stool. From 1st April 2013 those over the age of 74 can now self-refer and opt into bowel screening.

In February 2012 the Scottish Government formally launched the Detect Cancer Early Programme with the aim of increasing the early detection of cancer by 25%. The target concentrates on breast, colorectal (bowel) and lung cancers. Part of this initiative has been focussing on raising awareness of bowel screening.

The publication report summarises the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which are a series of measures used to monitor and evaluate the Scottish Bowel Screening Programme.

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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/