

**NHS Breast Screening Programme issue announced  
by Public Health England on Wednesday 2 May 2018**

Today Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, announced that around 309,000 women nationally, aged between 70 and 79, will be offered the opportunity for a catch-up NHS breast screening test following issues identified by Public Health England.

The decision follows analysis by Public Health England (PHE) dating back to 2009, which found that a number of invitations for a final breast screening test had not been sent out to women, between their 68th and 71st birthday.

The issue was identified following an upgrade to the NHS Breast Screening computerised invitation system when some technical issues with the software were found. Local breast screening services would not have been aware of the technical issue.

All affected women will be sent a letter before the end of May inviting them for a catch-up breast screening.

**Women can seek advice by calling the helpline on 0800 169 2692.**

This incident is not a result of services provided by the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and women do not need to do anything until they are contacted. The NHS Breast Screening Programme invites all women aged 50 to 70 for breast screening every three years. Our local NHS Breast Screening Programme continues as normal and those patients are not affected.

**What have Public Health England done to fix things?**

Public Health England has now checked through the whole system, including looking through the data back to 2009. They have carried out urgent work on the IT software and introduced an extra failsafe (safety) system to make sure this problem doesn't happen again in the future.

On behalf of Public Health England and NHS Breast Screening Services, we apologise to the women affected and for any concern that this news may cause. If you receive a letter please follow the instructions within it. We will work with our colleagues at Public Health England and the NHS Breast Screening Programme to see any women affected by this issue.

**University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust**

Public Health England press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/women-offered-nhs-breast-screening-after-missed-invitations>