

# THE NATIONAL BREAST SCREENING INCIDENT 2018: EXPERIENCE OF GATESHEAD BREAST SCREENING SERVICE



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## Background

Public Health England declared a national screening incident in May 2018 when it was understood that a large number of women had potentially missed their final invitation for breast screening between their 68<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> birthdays. Women thought to be affected were contacted: those up to age 72 were invited for screening by their local service while women aged 72 to 79 could request a screening appointment via a helpline. Units were originally advised to expect 80% uptake of women via the helpline.

## Aims

This poster summarises the impact of the catch up exercise on the breast screening service based at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Gateshead, serving the population of Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland and North Durham .

## Methods

Screening, administrative and pathology records were reviewed. Descriptive statistics performed. Comments were collected from staff.

## Results

Initial figures from Public Health England indicated that there were 721 women under 72 affected and 3084 in the older age group in our screening population.

Plans were therefore based on an anticipated additional workload of over 3000 screens, although figures were subsequently reduced.

The service created an additional 38 screening clinics across 4 locations.

Attendance at screening clinics was very variable ranging from 16% to 83% (mean 49%)

697 women under 72 were sent a screening appointment, 601 women over 72 booked an appointment via the helpline.

Total number of women actually screened was 1057

Recall rates are shown in Figure 1

Figure 1. Recall rates (%) by age group

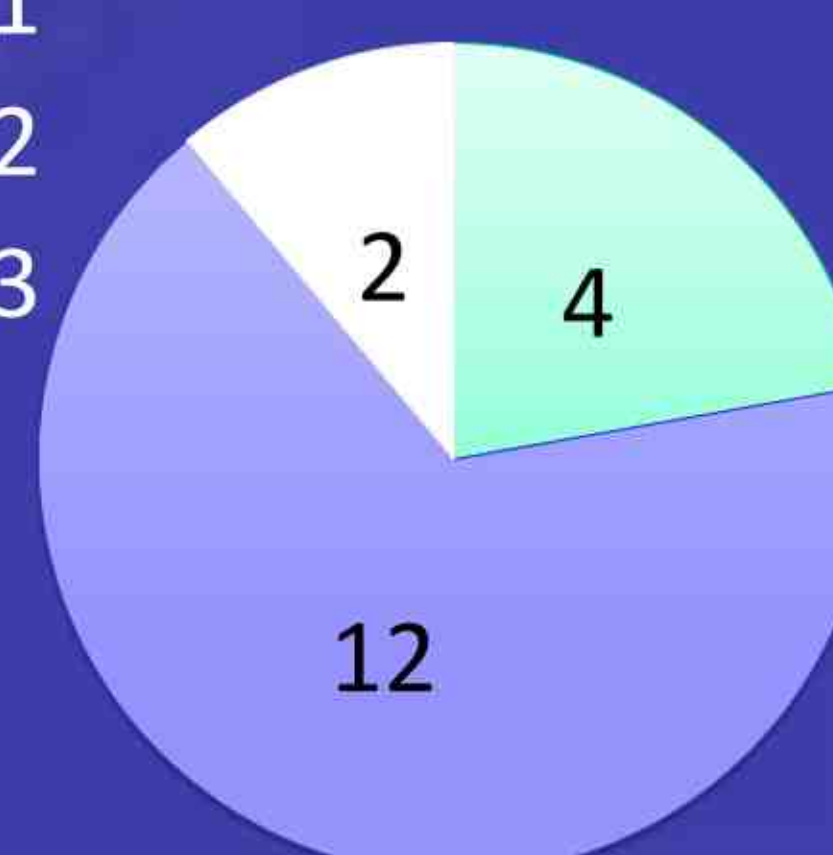


## Results continued

- 37 women were recalled to assessment - recall rate of 3.7%
- 32 core biopsies were performed in 25 patients
- 19 cancers were detected giving a cancer detection rate in this cohort of 17.9/1000
- Mean age of those diagnosed with malignancy was 73.4 (range 71-77)
- 18 invasive cancers, 1 high nuclear grade DCIS
- Mean tumour size 18mm (range 3-60mm)

The histology of the invasive cancers is illustrated in Figures 2 and 3

Grade 1  
Grade 2  
Grade 3



Ductal  
Lobular  
Tubular

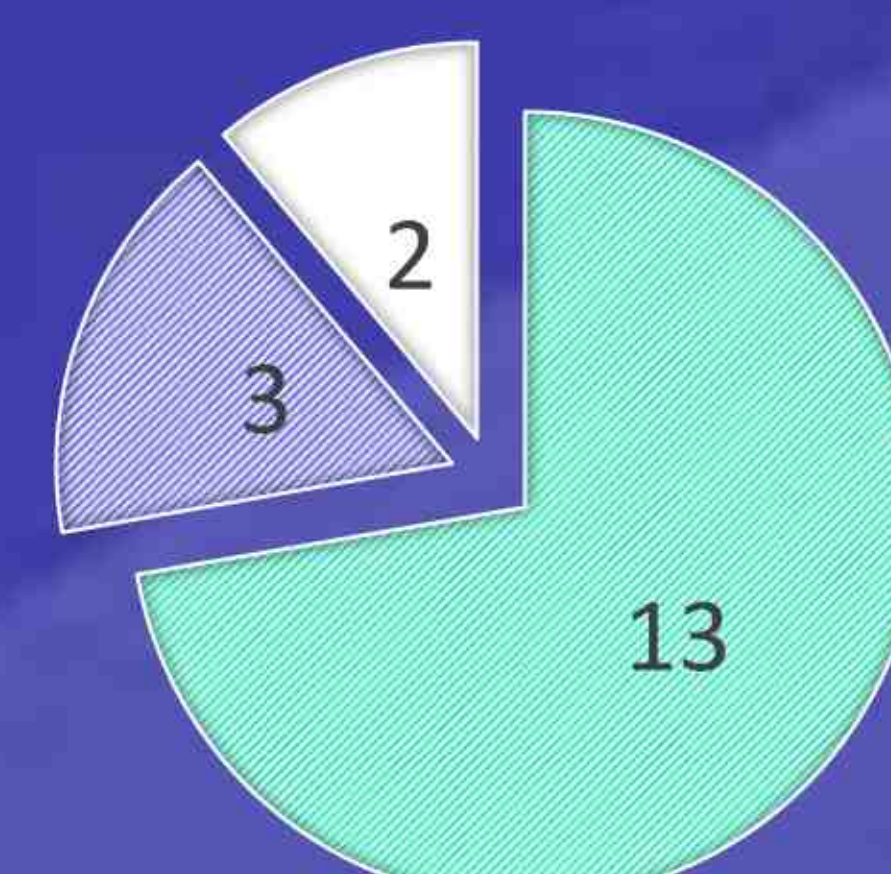
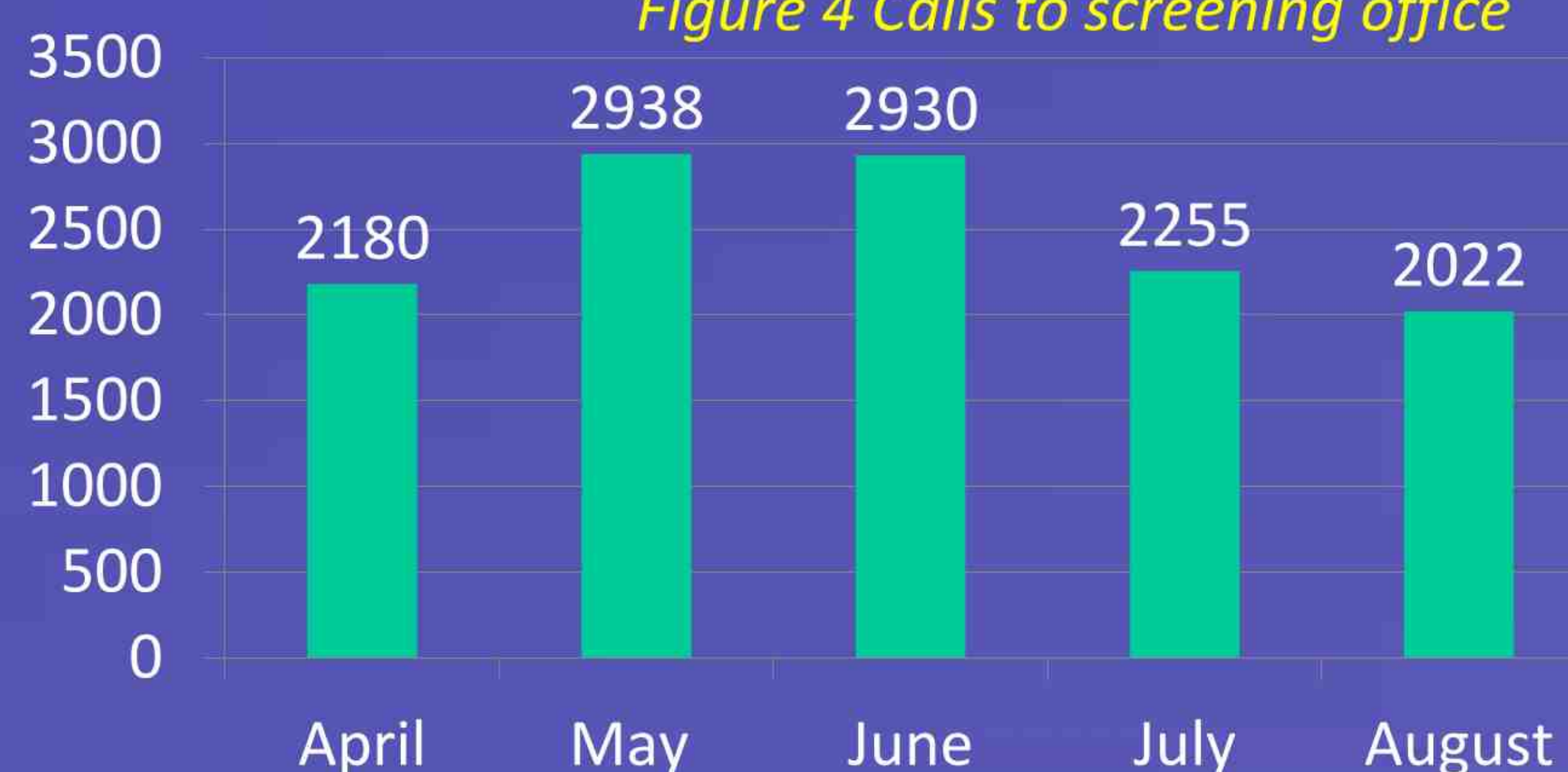


Figure 2 Histological grade

Figure 3 Histological type

- Of the 19 women with cancer, 18 had received all 7 screening invitations.
- Outcome of assessment
  - 19 diagnosed with malignancy
  - 16 returned to screen (RR)
  - 1 early screen because of co-morbidity preventing biopsy
  - 1 annual surveillance for B3 lesion
- 3 women underwent pre operative MRI
- 1 case had neoadjuvant chemotherapy
- All malignant cases underwent surgery, 2 were node positive
- Administrative burden with increased telephone calls Figure 4
- Mammographers reported the additional clinics to be difficult due to client age, mobility and co-morbidity. Also numerous client questions relating to incident

Figure 4 Calls to screening office



## Conclusion

The catch up exercise as a result of the 2018 incident led to additional work for all aspects of the breast service. The core programme was maintained throughout. Cancer detection rate was very high as expected given the age range screened.

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to all staff of the Gateshead breast service whose good will and commitment enabled the catch up exercise to be completed.