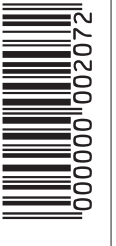


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JASON SLASHES SHARON'S BANNER



Private TV banner torn down by Labour employee on party orders

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No plans for cervical cancer screening

James Debono

Malta is one of just two EU member states to lack a screening programme for cervical cancer, along with Cyprus, and has no plans for one either.

The information has emerged from a memo by the European Commission on the implementation of a Council recommendation on cancer screening.

In its official reply to the

Commission, the social policy ministry said it will only consider screening for cervical and bowel cancers on the basis of "experience gained through implementing the breast screening programme. This will help guide decisions on the planning and design of other screening programmes for other cancers."

Along with eight other states, Malta also has no plans for a screening programme for bow-

el cancer which affects both men and women.

The Commission is recommending breast screening for all women aged 50-69; faecal occult blood screening for bowel cancer for men and women aged 50-74; and pap smears for cervical abnormalities, starting between the ages of 20 and 30.

Malta's breast screening programme is expected to be launched in September, but will be initially be limited to

women aged 50 to 59 and will only be extended to women aged 60-69 years in subsequent cycles.

But there no concrete plans on a screening programme for either bowel or cervical cancer.

Infection by a sexually transmitted human papillomavirus (HPV) is the cause of nearly all cases of cervical cancer, typically transmitted through sexual contact.

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Next Wednesday

Recent fraud investigations have rocked the local animal welfare scene. **MaltaToday Midweek** asks what future for abandoned animals, when animal shelters are run by cash-strapped charities with little or no State assistance.



To the dogs



Sana
Healthcare



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