To meet an objective in the National Service Frameworks for Diabetes a national screening programme for diabetic retinopathy (DR) was commissioned\(^1\). Initially annual screening was recommended based on a consensus of expert opinions \(^2\), but more recent work from Prof Owens and Rebecca Thomas in conjunction with the Diabetic Eye Screening Service Wales has shown that people without DR especially those with a short duration of diabetes, good glycaemic and blood pressure control are at low risk of developing sight-threatening DR and therefore would be safe to have their screening intervals extended from annual to biennial\(^3\). This evidence has now been examined by the National Screening Committee, and biennial screening has been recommended for those persons considered to be at low risk\(^4\).