



1st April 2021

Deputy Costello,
Kildare Street,
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 17802/21

-“ To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to ensure vaccinations carried out by private hospitals are in keeping with HSE protocols.”

Dear Deputy Costello,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

HSE vaccination clinics were directed to follow the scheduling in the Government Strategy and the guidance put in place by the Chief Clinical Officer to vaccinate staff taking into account their risk of exposure to Covid 19 in their work setting rather than their grade. Where this has not happened, both the CCO and the CEO have been clear that this is an unacceptable practice.

Community Healthcare Organisation Areas (CHOs) adhere to the sequencing as agreed by Government when administering Covid-19 vaccines and have a reserve list which is activated when there is surplus vaccine available. However on very rare occasions where a small number of vaccines are remaining, all CHO areas operate on the principal that no vaccine should be wasted. A key factor of the vaccine rollout strategy is to reduce the risk of any wastage. This is an agile and fast-evolving programme and the HSE are working to ensure the vaccine is administered as fast as supplies allow.

Where private hospitals are involved in the vaccination of their own staff or patients, or indeed any other cohort at the request of the HSE, they are required to follow the same guidance and advice as a HSE operated service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Walsh'.

David Walsh
Workstream Lead Vaccination Process and Workforce