

29th April 2021

Deputy Alan Kelly TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 18271/21

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to any Minister or Minister of State or adviser to a Minister or Minister of State who requested or suggested to the HSE or any Department that a hospital (Beacon Hospital) in Dublin be used as a vaccination site for Covid-19.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In early January 2021, discussions were underway across the HSE to plan vaccinations of Cohort 2 healthcare workers across both public and private sector as a national priority. All public acute hospitals convened in-house vaccination clinics to vaccinate their identified HCWs in line with the national priority allocation and sequencing guidance. As per national guidance an integrated vaccination steering group was convened comprising senior leadership from across the Hospital Group, relevant Community Health Organisations. Given the pressures on Hospitals, who were dealing with an immediate and serious surge of Covid-19 patients, it was felt that having an off-site facility, further reducing footfall into acute Hospital sites, was urgently needed to support the vaccination programme for community frontline workers. At that point, approximately 7,000 staff for vaccination were initially identified by CHO 7 (Dublin South, Kildare, West Wicklow).

While the offsite options were being considered the Beacon Hospital offered the recently purchased Beacon hotel as a Vaccination Centre free of charge. At that time this option was deemed a worthwhile exercise given the adjacencies to the Beacon Hospital including ED in case of any adverse reactions. The centre began vaccinating frontline healthcare workers for example home support staff, social inclusion, covid testing, covid vaccinators, GPs, Mental health and disability personnel on the 13th of January. To support the vaccination programme Beacon Hospital provided 50 volunteer vaccinators. More than 11,500 vaccines were administered at Beacon Vaccination Centre for our integrated steering group.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours Sincerely



Mr Trevor O' Callaghan
Chief Executive Officer