



22nd April, 2021

Deputy Cullinane,
Kildare Street,
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 18997/21

“To ask the Minister for Health when frontline healthcare staff under sequence group 2 at a centre (Core Counselling & Therapy Centre) will be vaccinated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Strategy was developed by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and the Department of Health (DoH), endorsed by the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), and approved by Government on 8th December 2020. It sets out a provisional priority list of groups for vaccination.

Frontline Healthcare Workers are identified as Provisional Allocation Group 2 with a corresponding priority level of 2. The sequencing of Frontline Healthcare Workers is set out at: <https://healthservice.hse.ie/filelibrary/staff/guidelines-for-sequencing-and-registration-process-for-hcw-covid-vaccination.pdf>

Vaccination of Frontline Healthcare Workers commenced on 29th December 2020. Up to Monday, 19th April 2021 a total of 349,684 doses had been administered to this group (252,691 first doses; 96,993 second doses).

Recent advice from National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) regarding the use of the Astra Zeneca vaccine (Vaxzevria®) has required a re-profiling timeframe for administering dose 2 of this vaccine.

However, the programme to administer outstanding dose 2 Astra Zeneca vaccinations for Frontline Healthcare Workers will resume from first week in May and will be completed as soon as practicable thereafter.”

Yours sincerely,

David Walsh
Workstream Lead Vaccination Process and Workforce