



21st April, 2021

Deputy Ó Ríordáin ,
Kildare Street,
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 19295/21

“To ask the Minister for Health if any Community Health Organisations have facilitated the vaccination of any school staff; and if any special school staff were officially registered through the HSE portal for essential frontline workers.”

Dear Deputy Ó Ríordáin,

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:

Teachers and SNAs do not form part of the current vaccination cohort at this time, in line with sequencing. In relation to special school staff, special schools provide education in an environment which is heavily supported by Healthcare professionals, including, but not limited to, Nurses, Physiotherapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Psychologists. These schools are mostly under the patronage and governance of Section 38 or 39 providers under the Health Acts and form part of an overall service provision to a very vulnerable group of children with very serious health conditions.

The majority of the staff within these organisations are clearly frontline healthcare workers and were vaccinated on that basis. This also included the healthcare professionals who participate in the Special School classes.

In some instances, teaching and SNA staff were also advised inadvertently to register for vaccination and were included in the vaccination programme. In some cases, this was by self-registration on the portal and in others by virtue of lists supplied by the organisations to local HSE services. As many of the vaccinations were by self-registration and these include both frontline Healthcare workers as well as teachers and SNAs it is not possible to accurately state how many teachers and SNAs have been vaccinated from these settings. However, in most areas of the country, a portion of those staff have been vaccinated.

Yours sincerely,

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

David Walsh
Workstream Lead Vaccination Process and Workforce