

Ruairí Ó Murchú TD  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2

20th April 2021

**PQ 19537/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the expected cost of the contract for pharmacists to roll-out the Covid-19 vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Ruairí Ó Murchú**

Deputy Ó Murchú,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question which was passed to the HSE for response.

There is a statutory process under the public service Pay & Pensions Act 2017, which provides for the Minister for Health to determine the rates to apply for GPs and Pharmacists, subject to the agreement to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and following a consultation process with the IMO and the IPU respectively.

In this context, the HSE and the DoH have engaged with the IPU to set out the general approach to the involvement in the vaccination programme of the groups that these organisations represent and to agree on the type of remuneration arrangements that will apply. This is available at;

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/gmscontracts/2019agreement/circular-to-pharmacists-vaccination-programme-nco-03-2021.pdf>

The HSE has been working with the pharmacy sector in recent months, including representatives from Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) to enable community pharmacists to join the programme as vaccinators. An agreed Operating Guidance has been issued together with the commencement of an expression of interest process which has issued to the pharmacy sector to determine those that would be in a position to join the programme.

In addition a technology solution has been developed to enable pharmacists to work with the programme. This is due for trial with 15 pharmacies towards the end of April.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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**Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Primary Care Strategy and Planning**

