



4th May, 2021

Deputy Alan Kelly,
Kildare Street,
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 20263/21

PQ 20263/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 vaccination appointments have been cancelled per week since 1 March 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Alan Kelly”

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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:

I have been advised that data per week since March 1st is not available.

The predominant reason for appointment cancellations since March can be attributed to the two separate instances of changes surrounding the use of the Astra Zeneca vaccine. On March 14th the use of Astra Zeneca was temporarily paused following NIAC guidance and this resulted in appointment postponements. These individuals remained on the system and were continuing to be rescheduled and vaccinated until April 12th.

On April 12th, further changes resulted in the use of Astra Zeneca vaccine being restricted to those aged 60-69 only. Once again, appointment postponements occurred. It is estimated that approximately 40,000 appointments were postponed on the week of April 12th. All those affected by these postponements are being rescheduled and will continue to be vaccinated in the coming weeks, as further supplies of suitable vaccines are received.

Yours sincerely,

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

David Walsh
Workstream Lead Vaccination Process and Workforce