



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
Áras na hAbhann,
Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,
Tamhlacht,
Baile Áth Cliath D24 XNP2
Fón 01 4631624/6.
Riomphost: director.nas@hse.ie

Office of the Director of the National Ambulance Service,
National Ambulance Service,
Rivers Building,
Tallaght Cross,
Tallaght,
Dublin D24 XNP2
Telephone: 01 4631624/6.
Email: director.nas@hse.ie

5th May 2021.

Mr. Ged Nash TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ20506/21.To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons aged 70 years and over in counties Louth and Meath who have been registered by general practitioners to be vaccinated in their own homes under the National Ambulance Service Covid-19 home vaccination programme as of 15 April 2021; the number of persons in this cohort who have been vaccinated to date; the number of persons in this category who are still awaiting vaccination under this programme as of 15 April 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nash,

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.

The HSE Home Vaccination Programme for people aged over 70 commenced in mid-March 2021. As of 1st May 2021, a total of one-hundred and sixteen (116) referrals were referred by GPs for these patients in counties Louth and Meath. These referrals were validated and the respective GPs received confirmation of receipt and processing. Seventy-five (75) patients in this cohort received vaccines by 1st May 2021.

A total of six (6) patients have refused their vaccination and there are thirty-five (35) people to receive their vaccine. It is projected that these patients will receive their first vaccination within the next seven days.

Under this Programme, registered patients are receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine from the National Ambulance Service. This vaccine is unlike conventional vaccines and requires strict transport and usage deadlines for its safe and effective rollout. For example, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine only has a transport window of twelve hours and once the vaccine vial is prepared for patient usage (with the addition of saline) the administration window is six hours for that vial and it should be noted that the vaccinator must remain with the patient for fifteen minutes following administration of the vaccine. Therefore, remaining patient's locations are being matched to both the transport and administrations deadline time frames in order to maximise the number of dosages from a vial (there are six dosages within one vial).

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline McDonagh - Senior Executive Officer.

