



Chief Operating Officer,
Saolta University Health Care Group,
Old Nurses Home,
Newcastle Road,
Galway University Hospital,

8th December 2021

Claire Kerrane, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ60502/21 To ask the Minister for Health if he his attention has been drawn to the long delays at a Primary Care Centre (Carrick on Shannon on 1st December) for Covid-19 booster vaccinations; the steps he will take to avoid such delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question/Public Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Vaccination Centre at the Primary Care Centre, Carrick on Shannon, has run a number of scheduled Covid-19 Booster clinics for those aged 60-69 in recent weeks at which high non-attendance rates have been noted. As a result of high non-attendance rates nationally, the National Vaccination Programme advised Vaccination Centres to hold walk-in (unscheduled) booster clinics to maximise the opportunity available to currently eligible groups to attend for their booster dose.

The Vaccination Centre at the Primary Care Centre, Carrick on Shannon held a walk in clinic for 60-69 year olds on 1st December 2021 from 9am – 5pm. There was a very high turnout for this clinic which resulted in people having to queue. The Vaccination Centre implemented the following planned contingency measures:

- Extra vaccination booths were opened and 3 extra vaccinators were sent to Carrick on Shannon CVC from Sligo CVC to increase capacity and throughput.
- Staff continuously checked the eligibility of those in the queue to remove any ineligible waiters.
- Staff maintained frequent communication with those in the queue advising that they could come back at a later time that day, on another day, or that they could be issued an appointment for a scheduled clinic.

Some level of queuing is expected at all walk-in clinics and the demand is difficult to predict. The regional Vaccination Programme team regularly meet with Vaccination Centre Managers to discuss various strategies and learn lessons that can be employed at other sites to minimise queues where possible.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Ann Cosgrove,
Chief Operations Officer,
Saolta University Health Care Group**