



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Aodhán Ó Riordáin

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

Date: 12 February 2021

PQ ref 6461/21 (137) To ask the Minister for Health if Covid-19 vaccinations were rolled-out to a private firm providing financial or other non-healthcare functions to the HSE before the completion of vaccination of front-line paramedics -

Dear Deputy Ó'Riordáin

Thank you for your representation. Now that we have safe and effective vaccines available, we are aware that most people are keen to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. The key constraint to planning and scheduling vaccine administration is the limited amount of vaccine available so it is not possible to reach everyone as quickly as we would like. Given that limitation, the Government published a national list of Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups on December 8th. This list is available at the following link - <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/39038-provisional-vaccine-allocation-groups/>.

The HSE is aware of a small number of incidences where, in order to ensure no wastage, that the vaccine was administered to people in groups further down the vaccine allocation grouping. All vaccine administration sites are required to have standby lists of frontline healthcare workers later in the sequence to ensure that staff are available at short notice in the event that frontline healthcare workers earlier in the sequence order are not able to attend or could not receive the vaccine.

Guidance documents have been issued to hospital groups and the community to this effect in relation to the Sequencing of the vaccination programme for healthcare workers provided in the link below <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/covid-19-vaccine-materials/sequencing-of-covid-19-vaccination-of-frontline-healthcare-workers>.

The HSE has resumed the administration of vaccines to frontline healthcare workers as outlined in the sequencing document this week. This included the resumption of the administration of the vaccination programme to the paramedic staff of both the NAS and Dublin Fire Brigade. I am aware that there has been discussions and communication between the National Ambulance Service Director and the Chief Fire Officer of Dublin Fire Brigade on this matter as part of their normal engages on service delivery and continuity. We are all keen to ensure all frontline healthcare workers are vaccinated as quickly as possible.

The HSE is doing everything that it can to reach everyone as quickly as possible and hopes that the vaccinations will progress swiftly in line with the Government's Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups.

I hope that this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO