

CC/AK/MC

01st March 2021

Mr Alan Kelly TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 9552/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will announce an additional Covid-19 vaccination centre for Limerick given that the location announced is inaccessible to persons that do not have a car or by public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Alan Kelly

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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 Covid-19 vaccination centres for the MidWest were announced by the Minister for Health on Monday, February 15th and governance for the centres will be provided jointly by UL Hospitals Group and HSE MidWest Community Healthcare. The locations for the MidWest region include the Radisson Blu Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick, West County Hotel, Ennis, and the Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh.

HSE Estates has already engaged contractors to progress the fit out works required at each of the venues and the equipping of these vaccination centres is ongoing. Confirmation of these locations follows significant work at national and local level with a view to standing up centres as the supply of vaccine increases and staff are recruited. A number of third party facilities were considered all over the country including hotels, convention centres, sports halls, third level colleges, race courses etc.

Locations have been chosen for their ability to provide the internal, ground level overall floor area and flow management needed for the scale of centre envisaged; ability to convert the space into a suitable clinic area; impact on the locality and external suitability of proposed sites for use as mass vaccination centres.

Other factors considered include general external access and traffic management flow to the site itself. It also includes access within the site itself, general building accessibility and disabled access along with the capacity and adjacency of available car parking to cater for the significant ongoing car parking requirement when the centre is fully in use. Consideration was given to availability of onsite supports such as public facilities, staff facilities and available operational supports - and also to the availability of public transport insofar as possible.

In relation to your query regarding accessibility by public transport, the Radisson Blu Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick is serviced by Bus Éireann Route 343 which links Limerick, Shannon and Ennis.



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In addition, a recruitment campaign is currently underway and it is intended that vaccinators will come from medical practitioners and nurses, pharmacists; paramedics, EMTs and advanced paramedics. Retired healthcare professionals will also be taken on as vaccinators.

At present, there are no plans to provide an additional mass vaccination centre in Limerick, however the situation will be kept under review. It is important to note that the current location of Limerick's mass vaccination centre meets all of the criteria as set out by the High-Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination.

I trust this clarifies the position. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colette Cowan', written over a horizontal line.

Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group