



**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Deputy Fergus O'Dowd TD**

Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2  
Email:

Date: 28 January 2021

**PQ ref 3436/21 (66) To ask the Minister for Health the policy followed by his Department and the HSE in relation to the allocation of vaccines to cover all front-line staff in each hospital; the reason all front-line staff at major acute hospitals such as Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda were not vaccinated due to shortage of vaccines supplied to them initially; the reason for the shortage of vaccines in the hospital while other hospitals such as the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Dublin had a surplus of vaccines; if the full list, the timetable and date of vaccine distribution of vaccines to date will be published; the number of vaccines given to each such hospital; the number of frontline staff in each such hospital; and the policy which will be now followed in allocating vaccines in hospitals in the future when adequate vaccine is available nationally.**

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

Thank you for your representation. Now that there is a safe and effective vaccine available we are aware that most people are keen to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. The distribution of vaccines was managed within each hospital group.

The key constraint in delivering the vaccine programme to frontline healthcare workers is the fact that there is only a limited amount of vaccine available so it is not possible to reach everyone in the group (group 2). Given that limitation the Government published a national list of Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups on December 8<sup>th</sup>. 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>.

Once there is the additional supply of vaccine is received the vaccination programme will be accelerated and will allow completion of frontline healthcare workers in group 2.

The updated numbers of people who have received the vaccine are published on a Thursday via the COVID data hub,

I hope this provides you with assistance,

Yours sincerely



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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the CCO