

Brid Smith TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

6th April 2021

PQ/21/12760 - To ask the Minister for Health when ninety persons in the over 85 years of age category who had appointments for Covid-19 vaccination cancelled without notice in Ballyfermot recently will receive vaccinations; if his attention has been drawn to the distress and confusion this has caused to the older persons that have been waiting patiently for their vaccinations and stuck rigidly to the public health restrictions for almost a year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brid Smith

Deputy Smith,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your representation in relation to the COVID-19 Vaccine rollout and apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I regret any upset or inconvenience caused to GPs and patients in the Ballyfermot area who had vaccinations cancelled.

The HSE is rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine programme in line with the Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups published by government. The plan for immunization of those over 70, in line with the current NIAC recommendations, is that it is being rolled out over the following age categories commencing with those 85 and over, then those aged 80 and over, aged 75 and over and then those 70 and over.

The priority group listing for vaccination is undergoing a rolling review, taking into account new evidence and epidemiology. Any update to the priority groups recommended by NIAC will be notified to the Department of Health for consideration and any changes will be published by the Department. The HSE will then put in place any changes that are approved.

I can confirm in line with the above that the vaccination of people age 70 and older has been rolled out from mid-February through to May, with the intent that all of this age cohort will have been vaccinated (both doses) by the end of May in line with vaccine supply. This continues to be a function of higher numbers in the age group and limited volumes available for allocation. The HSE is working to ensure that the maximum number of GP practices receive vaccine deliveries in line with the supply available to us and is fully committed to ensuring all patients over 70 gain access to the COVID-19 vaccine as required and in line with vaccine supply and recommendations of NIAC.

I trust that the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Primary Care Strategy and Planning**

