



14th April, 2021

Deputy Joe Flaherty,
Kildare Street,
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 14184/21

PQ 14184/21 - "To ask the Minister for Health the provisions for the vaccine roll-out in relation to high risk persons with Down syndrome that live at home with family members and are not accessing day services given concerns that they could possibly be overlooked it is important that they are vaccinated under the revised prioritisation. -Joe Flaherty"

Dear Deputy Flaherty,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

The process of providing vaccines for people who have Downs Syndrome, who are in Residential Services or availing of Daycare services is currently being co-ordinated by each CHO Disabilities Team.

In addition, the National Disabilities Team and ICGP gave details of a named contact person to 2000 GPs at their weekly webinar on March 24th. THE ICGP also sent out a similar communication to their 5000 ICGP wider members group (GPs), with a view to capturing information relating to their Down syndrome patient group. One further communication channel involved the National Disabilities Team sharing direct contact details with Down syndrome Ireland, who subsequently passed on the information through their national network. The combined effect of both of these initiatives has resulted in over 300 people (both with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities) to date, being identified and placed on the vaccination list. This engagement process is on-going and families or people with disabilities continue to make regular contact, a system is in place to give this information on a daily basis to the COVID Vaccination leads in each CHO.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Walsh'.

David Walsh
Workstream Lead Vaccination Process and Workforce